

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator David Corbin at 8:00 a.m. on February 17, 2000 in 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Mary Ann Torrence, Revisor of Statutes Office
Lila McClafin, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Lee Robbins, Yates Center, KS
Steve Williams, Secretary, Wildlife and Parks
Shawn Harding, Kansas Bowhunters Assn.
Jim Beason, Chautauqua County, KS
Edwin Bowman, Sedan, KS
Mike Beam, Kansas Livestock Association
Bill Fuller, Kansas Farm Bureau

Others attending:

See attached list.

Written testimony from Chris Wilson, Executive Director, Kansas Agriculture Aviation Assn. and Director of Member Services of Kansas Seed Industry Association submitted written testimony supporting **SB 501** which would create an environmental remediation fund (Attachment 1). The bill was heard in committee on February 8 and 9.

Kendall Cline, Atwood, KS, Rawlins County, submitted written testimony supporting legislation to control the deer population and **SB 597** which allows for payment of deer damage claims. In his testimony he suggested ideas that he believed would be helpful in solving the problem (Attachment 2).

Bruce Miller, Garnett, KS, submitted written testimony supporting **SB 518** (Attachment 3).

Chairperson Corbin opened the continued hearings on **SB 518—special hunt-on-you-own-land deer permits transferable to any hunter**. Lee Robbins was called on as a proponent.

Lee Robbins, Yates Center, KS, supported the bill. He said it is his belief that to be successful in controlling the deer population landowners will need to be included in the process to find solutions. He suggested some major changes that need to be made (Attachment 4).

Steve Williams, Secretary, Wildlife and Parks, opposed **SB 518**. He thought the bill clearly establishes an incentive for private individuals to allow the deer population to grow due to the potential to make money. The objective of the department is to reduce the population. It raises the expense for resident deer hunters and restricts their ability to hunt deer. Finally, they believe that prohibiting nonresident guides is unconstitutional and would not withstand a legal challenge (Attachment 5). He briefly commented on some of the other conferees testimony.

Shawn Harding, Kansas Bowhunters Assn., opposed the legislation as he thought it was too broad in its solutions and could harm our state resources in regional areas that do not have as many deer (Attachment 6).

The hearing on **SB 518** was closed. The hearing on **SB 597—Payment of deer damage claims; increase in number of nonresident deer permits authorized**.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Jim Beason, Chautauqua County, presented written testimony supporting the bill. He and his brother Herb operate Beason Farms they have suffered a significant amount of financial loss on their land from deer. Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks solutions do not seem to be working. Attached to his testimony is some graphs and charts estimating the losses they have incurred on their farm ([Attachment 7](#)). Mr. Beason had asked to show a video of deer damages they had suffered on their property, however time to show it was not available.

Edwin Bowman, Sedan, supported the bill. He said he had damage on his property from deer and more permits and financial compensation would help property owners. Responding to a questions would he be in favor of allowing the taking of bucks during the rut? He gave a reluctant yes.

Steve Williams, Secretary, Wildlife and Parks, opposed the bill. He said the department sympathizes with those experiencing crop damage, but he did not think this bill was sound public policy. The purposed program it seeks to establish does not solve crop damage, it only provides an incentive to individuals to ignore the real solution which is allowing hunters access to kill deer ([Attachment 8](#)).

Bill Fuller, Kansas Farm Bureau, testified based upon member-adopted policy, Farm Bureau strongly supported the bill. He suggested the bill be amended to establish a toll-free telephone number to be used by citizens to report wildlife damage on crops and other property ([Attachment 9](#)).

Mike Beam, Kansas Livestock Association, supported the legislation. As it would create a deer damage reimbursement fund. It also would increase the number of nonresident deer hunting permits that KDWP could issue. He suggested the committee may want to restrict the nonresident fee increase to antlered deer only ([Attachment 10](#)).

The hearing on **SB 597** was closed.

Chairperson Corbin announced the substitute bill for **SB 469** would be reviewed and possible action considered at the next scheduled meeting, which will be February 18, 2000.

The committee adjourned at 9:00 a.m.