

State of Kansas

Senate Chamber



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Testimony in Support of SB 301 Landowners Right to Know Act February 8, 2018

Dear Chairman and Members of the Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee:

Thank you for holding a hearing on SB 301, which would require hunting guides and outfitters to register with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism. Over the course of 37 years of being a farmer and land manager with my husband, our experience with hunters, hunting guides, and outfitters has drastically changed. I hope you will support providing landowners with some degree of protection from those guides and outfitters who seek to profit of farmer's land without their consent.

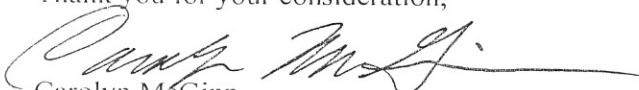
My husband and I are part of a history of four generations who have farmed land in Sedgwick and Harvey Counties. Over the years, we have granted family, friends, neighbors, and others who come to our door the privilege of hunting on our land. Due to the abundance of geese and other wild game on our property, we have sought to be open and flexible in allowing hunting on our property. Last summer, the KDWP&T adopted a new rule preventing guides and outfitters from using public land.

As we have seen an increase in interest in private hunting ground, we felt the need to have hunters we do not know fill out the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Landowner Permission Card (see attached). With this card, we have some assurance that hunters understand basic rules of hunting on private property. This also allows us to communicate with them at a later time if needed. This past year, as a result of collecting this information, we found that an outfitter was about to make a large sum of money on our property without our knowledge.

I remember taking hunter safety with my son in the early 1990s. It was a great program that focused on wildlife conservation. It also emphasized maintaining good relationships with landowners. In the past few years, we have had more strangers come to the door asking to hunt without disclosing that they are guides and outfitters. They often don't offer to share their game. This past year, I had several individuals deny they are guides and outfitters only to find out otherwise on Facebook.

SB 301 would require outfitters and guides to be registered with the KDWP&T. It would also provide this information on a searchable website. This would make it easier for landowners to know and trust anyone seeking to hunt on their land. Farmers understand the need to harvest excess wildlife. Farmers also invest a lot of capital in their land and the crops that sustain the wildlife that makes hunting great in Kansas.

Thank you for your consideration,


Carolyn McGinn
Senator, 31st District