

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2671**  
**House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony regarding House Bill No. 2671; which lowers non-resident hunting license fees to \$25 and requires the fee for an annual hunting license to be refundable for any person who does not acquire a hunting permit for the applicable hunting license year. **I oppose this bill.**

This is the most irresponsible idea I have heard relative to state budgeting, but more upsetting is the underlying intent. While other states are further restricting non-residents and increasing fees for non-residents the suggestion here is to do just the opposite. There is no better source for partially funding the KDWP or any other state agency than non-residents. This bill has nothing to do with a state budget, but is rather a direct attempt to follow through on a retaliatory strike against the KDWP stemming from a discussion regarding deer baiting back in September of last year. As quoted by the Wichita Eagle on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Representative Bloom had this to say at that meeting.

*“If you consider banning baiting,” Bloom said, “we’re going to take a million dollars off the top of your budget immediately. And then we will go through every line-item bit by bit and take off everything we can possibly find.”*

Representative Bloom, went as far as to claim the chair of the committee that oversees the agency’s budget would help him retaliate by defunding the department. Bloom is clearly working with Representative Corbet to follow through on his threat. All the while, KDWP never recommended the Commission ban deer baiting. The discussion was centered around the spread of disease in the Kansas deer herd. Our state agencies should not be afraid to do their jobs just because of funding threats. Representative Corbet is continuing a long history of utilizing his political weight to flank the KDWP, often in ways that help his own business. An underfunded department hurts residents and non-residents alike by diminishing the resources available to create and maintain quality hunting in Kansas.

**Please oppose this HB2671 and maintain funding to KDWP from non-residents.**

Thank you for your consideration.



**Jeffrey D. Hancock**  
Kansas Resident Hunter  
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