



TESTIMONY

House Agriculture Committee

HB 2558

An Act concerning wildlife; relating to controlled shooting areas; licenses.

**Whitney Damron
On behalf of the
Kansas Sport Hunting Association**

PROPONENT

February 8, 2018

Chairman Hoffman and Members of the Committee:

I am Whitney Damron and I appear before you today on behalf of the Kansas Sport Hunting Association in support of HB 2558 extending the controlled shooting area season from ending on March 31 to April 30, beginning with the 2019 season (July 1, 2018 enactment date).

By way of information, the KSHA is composed of hunting service professionals, gamebird producers and suppliers. The Association supports sport hunting opportunities in Kansas and its members who provide guided hunts often do so under the laws and regulations for Controlled Shooting Areas.

CSA's are given the opportunity for extended hunting seasons because they are responsible for provisioning the birds on their property. Whatever game is removed is replaced (e.g., if ten pheasants are taken in a hunt, ten are added to the property). Game bird breeders provide a variety of birds for hunters (e.g., pheasant, quail, partridge, hand-raised mallard duck, chukar etc.). CSA's license land through the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism; hire employees to serve as guides; often provide a variety of hospitality services including meals and lodging; and serve to bring hunters into our state who otherwise would not be able to fund suitable ground to hunt.

Under current law, CSA's can offer hunting services for propagated birds from September 1 through March 31. HB 2558 would extend the season to April 30.

In visiting with Rep. Ken Corbet, who is in the sport hunting business (Ravenwood Outdoors) and the current president of the KSHA, he indicated extending the season for CSA's would allow, for example, the packaging of spring wild turkey hunts with CSA pheasant hunts would make for an ideal morning/afternoon hunt schedule.

I also represent Flint Oak, LLC, one of the nation's leading hunting properties located in Elk County, Kansas. Flint Oak is the largest employer in Elk County and indicated expansion of the hunting season would be a significant enhancement to the hunting opportunities they offer to a national and at times, international clientele.

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We have visited with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism and they do not have objections to the bill.

The Kansas Sport Hunting Association believes this legislation will enhance tourism, increase investment in controlled shooting areas and have a positive impact on rural communities.

On behalf of the KSHA, we thank you for your time and would appreciate your support on this legislation.

Whitney Damron

www.huntkansas.org

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