

To: Chairman Hoffman, Vice Chair Thompson, and Ranking Member Carlin. Members of the Agriculture Committee.

From: Joe Seiwert, Pretty Prairie, KS

Date: February 15, 2017

Re: Proponent Testimony-House Bill 2207

I am here to testify today in support of HB2207, Hunting or pursuing and animal or bird on private land without written permission.

The reason I come before you to support this bill is because of hunters walking around in your back yard claiming to look for a wounded deer. I farm for several people who own prime hunting lands. I also own a number of acres myself and lease it to good hunters for buck deer hunting. I also let friends and family hunt the extended season for does for free. I usually will let anyone hunt on land I control or own if they ask for permission. I do this to promote good hunting relationships between good hunters, farmers, and land owners. I hear all the time farmers/landowners won't let hunters hunt without paying. I can understand why some of the time because there are hunters that think they own your land and have no respect for the landowner/tenant or farmer. However, most farmers or landowner/tenants have friends or family that want to hunt also, but also figure they feed the deer all year long and it is a way of making up for crop losses or tire damage for sheds.

This bill is not for me, it's for many of my friends, constituents and landowners that cannot afford to hire a lobbyist to lobby to protect their interest or property rights. They come to me about trying to do it the old-fashioned way, coming to their local legislator. In today's fast-paced world, most people still believe in the right way to do things legally and by the book, however, it seems like we cannot do that against large agencies unless we spend time to lobby by special interest.

The reason I support this bill is because of the number of hunters that use the excuse to get on your land by saying they are pursuing a wounded deer. Don't misunderstand what I'm saying, not all hunters are bad and will stop and let you know they will be on your property. This bill is not about them. Sometimes they are walking thru your property, but what they are really doing is driving the deer to another location to be shot by someone waiting. I have had people tell me they have had hunters in their back yards. I understand that most people can't imagine what I'm saying that someone would be in your back yard like in the city, however when you live on a farm or in the country, you might live off a way off the road, in the trees, that is your back yard. I personally had storage building broken into, and when you find someone walking around at night on your property, or property you rent, first thing out of their mouth is "I'm chasing a deer." Of course, it's during the season.

So, with that is the purpose of this bill. No one I know would stop a legitimate hunter from pursuing a wounded deer or animal on their property they own, rent or are in charge of, if they simply stop and ask for permission. They would give them written permission so anyone that stops them and ask if they have the permission, they can provide the proof to be there. I don't believe it is any different than the game warden asking or requiring hunters to have a hunting license on their person. If they don't, they will issue them a ticket. So why doesn't the landowner/tenant have the backing to be able to ask for identification or proof of permission to be on their private property. How would you like being a single, elderly lady living alone and at 10:00 pm you see someone walking around in your back yard or trees with a flashlight? If you ask and they say they don't need permission, what do you do? Put yourselves in these people's position, what would you do? That's all I ask. How do you know if someone gave them permission or not? How do you know? What would you do is all I ask of you?

Thanks for your time and consideration and I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Joe Seiwert