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Governor Jeff Colyer, M.D.

Testimony on HB 2558 relating to Controlled Shooting Areas To The House Committee on Agriculture

By Robin Jennison Secretary Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism

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HB 2558 seeks extend the controlled shooting area season from March 31 to April 30. **The Department is neutral on the provisions contained in the bill.** The provisions of the bill would be effective upon publication in the statute book.

Kansas has approximately 120 licensed controlled shooting areas (CSA) within the state. The operation and licensing of the CSA allows propagated game birds to be hunted and harvested outside of the normal upland bird seasons for Kansas. CSA operations cannot be conducted on less than 160 acres nor more and 1280 acres, contiguous, per license. CSA licenses expire annually on June 30.

Participants in hunts on CSA's pay a fee to the operator and also must have a hunting license. Participants may utilize either a reduced cost CSA hunting license or a regular resident or nonresident hunting license.

The current hunting season for CSA's is September 1 through March 31. Because CSA operations require propagated birds, there is no biological impact on the season extension proposed. In addition, an added benefit of the extension would be to have combination hunts for other game species, such as turkey hunts, provided proper licenses and permits are possessed by the participants.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to address the Committee.