

To Chairman Larry Powell and Members of the Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee:  
Testimony supporting HB2295

My name is Heath Weninger and I am a farmer from Kingman County and I support legislation that will do anything to get rid of more deer. My family and I are strongly in support of any extension in the deer hunting season. The main reason for my support is public safety.

My experience with deer in this state has been nothing less than what I would describe as a Horror Movie that never ends and every time I get behind the wheel of a car, I think my blood pressure goes up 10 points. Something has got to be done about the deer numbers in this state. Believe me, I am doing my best to help control the numbers. I don't even hunt deer, yet I've probably killed more deer with a vehicle in the last five years than most die hard hunters have killed their entire life. I am 40 years old and since I was 10, I would bet any hunter that I have had more deer vehicle collisions than they have had shots at deer.

The reason: **I HUNT EVERY SECOND OF EVERY DAY I DRIVE A ROAD OR HIGHWAY IN KANSAS.** That doesn't make any sense. I shouldn't have to get nervous about having to go somewhere in a vehicle because of a 500lb + animal running loose might dart in front of me at any given second.

In this last five years alone, I have totaled five vehicles, one accident nearly being fatal, and where I have my deductibles set, that has gotten very expensive. My near misses and minor hits that I **DON'T CLAIM** are off the charts. I have a commute between Kingman and Wichita and there is a 5 mile stretch midway I call "*Deer Alley*", of which almost every day, I see a deer running or see one lying dead along the road. I failed to mention that I had a friend who was killed in a deer collision. This is shameful.

I myself farm a large number of acres of which I allow hunting on for free with only one rule, "Its free hunting as long as they kill as many deer as they can ". Its one less that could potentially kill me or my family.

I ask one thing: Either loosen the restriction on hunting by lengthening the season, **OR** I ask the FISH AND GAME COMMISSION to pay my deductibles on my deer hits. Remember, they are the overseers of the deer in the state. One other option is that all deer hit deductibles get charged at the exact rate of what a deer tag cost.

A concerned motorist

Heath Weninger  
Kingman County Resident