

**Testimony on SB 123 relating to KDWP Cabins
To
The House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources**

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SB 123 seeks to remove cabin fees from the regulatory process and implement a process that provides additional flexibility in adjusting, in a timely manner, the fees charged for Department cabins for public use at various state parks and public lands. The Department currently has 94 cabins with an additional 20 planned for 2011. **The Department supports the provisions contained in the bill.**

Currently the fees for the use of the public cabins are established through the Administrative Rules and Regulations process. The current listing of cabin camping permit fees is established within K.A.R. 115-2-3a. Each cabin has its own established fee and the fees vary by location and by time of year, but to change any fee requires utilization of the cumbersome rules and regulations process. This is a time consuming process and does not allow KDWP to adjust a fee for market conditions such as decreased demand of certain cabins or to provide market incentives such as allowing "package" promotion fees for underutilized cabins.

The provisions of Senate Bill No. 123 allow KDWP to obtain approval from the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission for fee changes after a public meeting to discuss any changes being considered by the Department. In addition, the fees to be approved could not exceed the maximums established within the Bill. The KDWP Commission meets a minimum of six times per year which increases the ability of KDWP to provide appropriate fees in a timely manner without the delay of obtaining approval through the administrative rules and regulations process.

In addition, it should be noted that as an on-going process, the KDWP is still adding cabins for state parks and public land and the regulatory process can delay the opening of new cabins until the permit fees can be established.

In summary, the Department would appreciate having increased flexibility to market the use of public cabins with the intent of increasing the revenue generated by such use as well as encouraging people to get outdoors and enjoy all that Kansas has to offer. **The Department appreciates the support of the Committee in passage of the bill.**