

TERRY BRUCE

STATE SENATOR
34TH DISTRICT
RENO COUNTY

TOPEKA

SENATE CHAMBER

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIR: LEGISLATIVE POST AUDIT
MEMBER: JOINT COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL
CLAIMS AGAINST THE STATE
AGRICULTURE
JUDICIARY
NATURAL RESOURCES
UTILITIES

To: House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
From: Senator Terry Bruce
Re: Senate Bill 152

March 16, 2011

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Kansans have long recognized, and have held dear, their rights to hunt and fish and protect themselves, as well as their families. This was made clear during the last election, wherein Kansas voters decided by nearly a 90% majority to change the state constitution to more clearly express these rights.

Senate Bill 152 further refines these already established rights by amending K.S.A. 32-1002 in two significant ways.

The first method is found in new subsection (a)(3). This provision allows a person to carry concealed so long as they have a concealed carry permit pursuant to K.S.A 75-7c01 et seq. There are two primary reasons for this change. First, it clarifies a discrepancy between existing statutory and regulatory law. Second, it allows for a hunter, most likely bow hunters, to protect themselves.

The second method is found in new subsection (a)(4). This provision allows for a person who has gone through the trouble of lawfully possessing a suppressor to hunt while using such a device. Despite popular belief, a suppressor will not totally eliminate the noise a firearm makes when being discharged, but it will limit the noise to varying degrees. More significantly, it will protect the hunter's ears from the percussion of the discharge, which earplugs or earmuffs cannot do effectively. Thereby, more hearing impaired hunters to ability to hunt without suffering further damage to their hearing.

It is important to note, that in addition to paying the \$2000 price tag to purchase a suppressor, and applicant for the federal license must also pay a \$1000 tax stamp and undergo the same background check required of machine gun applicants. Assuming these requirements are met and someone receives a suppressor lawfully, the use of such a device to commit or further a violent offense could result in a 30-year increase in an offender's federal prison sentence.

I hope you have found my testimony helpful, and I urge you to support SB 152.

HOME
PO BOX 726
HUTCHINSON, KS 67504
620-662-6830

DISTRICT OFFICE
FORKER, SUTER & ROSE, LLC.
129 WEST SECOND AVE, SUITE 200
PO BOX 1868 HUTCHINSON, KS 67504-1868
PHONE: 620-663-7131 FAX: 620-669-0714

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Attachment 2