

## **KANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION**

### **OPPOSITION TO THE PRIVATIZATION OF WILDLIFE IN KANSAS**

**Whereas**, the Kansas Constitution declares that wildlife belongs to the People of Kansas; and

**Whereas**, this tenet has been the foundation of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation; and

**Whereas**, HB 2538 would repeal K.S.A.32-703, which states: The ownership of and title to all wildlife, both resident and migratory, in the state, not held by private ownerships, legally acquired, shall be, and are hereby declared to be in the state.; and

**Whereas**, HB 2538 declares: Landowners shall have the right of first refusal to all antlers of deer illegally hunted on such landowner's land; and

**Whereas**, HB 2538 in essence privatizes the ownership of the Kansas deer herd to the landowner on which they reside; and

**Whereas**, current law holds landowners harmless for damages caused by wildlife residing on their property.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Kansas Wildlife Federation assembled during its annual meeting, February 22, 2014 in Salina, Kansas, is opposed to the tenets of HB 2538 or any other legislation that privatizes the ownership of Kansas' wildlife; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that KWF urges the Kansas Legislature to defeat HB 2538; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Kansas Wildlife Federation urges the Kansas Legislature to modify HB 2538 to hold landowners monetarily responsible for property damages incurred by deer from their property should the bill be enacted.