



June 3, 2021

Mr. Gerald W. Lauber, Chairman  
and Members of the Kansas Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism Commission,  
1020 S. Kansas,  
Topeka, KS 66612

Regarding: KAR 115-4-4. Big Game: Legal equipment and taking method Possible Amendment

Chairman Lauber and Members of the Kansas Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism Committee:

On behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF), I respectfully ask the commission to support the proposed amendment to KAR 115-4-4 submitted by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism (KDWPT) regarding legal muzzleloader hunting equipment in Kansas. As the entity best quipped to make science-based recommendations related to the management of Kansas' public trust resources, we maintain support for KDWPT's management authority and appreciate their willingness to propose this regulatory amendment. By supporting this proposed amendment, which would effectively authorize the use of the new FireStick technology during the state's muzzleloader hunting seasons, the Commission will allow Kansas' hunters to take advantage of this safe and easy-to-use technology while maintaining the fair chase ethic among those who utilize this opportunity.

Since 1989, CSF has maintained a singleness of purpose that has guided the organization to become the most respected and trusted sportsmen's organization in the political arena. CSF's mission is to work with Congress, governors, and state legislatures to protect and advance hunting, angling, recreational shooting and trapping. The unique and collective force of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus, and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses, working closely with CSF, and with the support of major hunting, recreational fishing and shooting, and trapping organizations, serves as an unprecedented network of pro-sportsmen elected officials that advance the interests of America's hunters and anglers.

The FireStick muzzleloader technology retains the primary characteristics of most modern inline muzzleloader, which are legal to use in Kansas, in that a single projectile (bullet) is loaded through the muzzle for each discharge. The primary difference is that, while most muzzleloaders also

require the propellant (i.e., black powder or common substitute) to be loaded through the muzzle, the propellant used by FireStick capable muzzleloaders can be safely loaded and unloaded through the breech which accepts unique, pre-charged capsules. It is also worth noting that these capsules are currently loaded with a propellant produced right here in Kansas by Hodgdon Powder Company. While this is a deviation from the classic muzzleloader, this change in procedure does not result in an increased effective range compared to modern inline muzzleloaders that are frequently used in the Sunflower State.

While the FireStick technology does not result in any performance advantages, the platform is much simpler and safer to use. By utilizing pre-measured charges, similar to the use of pelleted black powder charges, hunters can expect improved precision at normal ranges relative to those using loose powder. Likewise, the ability to load and unload the powder charge from the breech end of the barrel allows hunters to safely remove the charge as needed while transporting the muzzleloader. Additionally, the casing in which the charge is held is protected from the elements, preventing moisture from inhibiting the ignition of the powder during adverse conditions. For youth hunters and those who are interested but have yet to try blackpowder hunting, these extra safety precautions may eliminate a potential barrier to entry.

In conclusion, CSF appreciates the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism's willingness to propose this amendment, and we encourage the Commission's support in approving this possible amendment and authorizing the use of this technology during the Sunflower State's muzzleloader hunting seasons. Doing so would support a Kansas business while providing Kansas' hunters with additional opportunities in the field. Thank you all again for the ability to provide these comments to you, and please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kent Keene". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Kent Keene**

Senior Coordinator, Lower Midwestern States and Agriculture Policy

Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

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