



To: **Honorable Members of the Natural Resources Committee**
State Capitol
1445 K St.
Lincoln, NE 68508

Re: **LB 1173 – Limited Transferable Hunting Permits**

Position: **Oppose**

Date: **February 12, 2020**

Honorable Members of the Natural Resources Committee:

On behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation (CSF), we ask that you oppose Legislative Bill 1173 (LB 1173), a bill that would allow for the creation of limited transferrable hunting permits for antelope, deer, or elk. We request that this letter be included as part of the public hearing record.

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.

Hunting is often the preferred tool for managing wildlife populations when regulated by professionally trained biologists using the best available science to ensure long-term sustainability of the resource. By requiring the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (Commission) to issue transferrable hunting licenses where landowners may have experienced damage that was likely caused by antelope, deer or elk, LB 1173 strips the management authority from those best trained to make wildlife management decisions.

Additionally, Nebraska already has a program in place to address crop and property damage caused by wildlife. Through their crop depredation program, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has the ability to track damage claims, understand the issues that are facing landowners, and design solutions that are beneficial for both Nebraska's landowners and the state's wildlife resources. In many cases, this includes issuing no-cost harvest permits that may be used by landowners and additional shooters designated by the landowner. With this system already in place through the Commission, the provisions of LB 1173 are redundant and unnecessary for addressing damage concerns on private lands.

Finally, the Public Trust Doctrine, the first core component of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, states that wildlife resources are owned by the public and managed by government agencies for the benefit of the public. By requiring the Commission to provide landowners with no-cost hunting permits that may then be transferred to other hunters for profit, LB 1173 blurs the tenets provided by this Doctrine and provides a mechanism for privatization of public trust resources. For this reason, as well as those stated above, we urge the committee to reject LB 1173.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kent Keene", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kent Keene
Lower Midwestern States Coordinator | Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
110 North Carolina Ave. SE, Washington, DC 20003