



NATIONAL DEER ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 162305 · Atlanta, Georgia 30321 · phone: 1-800-209-3337 · DEERASSOCIATION.com

23 March, 2021

Senator Casey Murdock
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Rm. 426
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Representative Kevin McDugle
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Rm. 242
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

RE: Support for Licensing Authority and Modernization Provisions Found in SB 774 and HB 2214

Dear Senator Murdock and Representative McDugle:

On behalf of the National Deer Association (NDA), I am writing to provide our comments of support for Oklahoma Senate Bill 774 (SB 774) and House Bill 2214 (HB 2214). As you are aware, these bills, with slight variations, grant the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission authority over Oklahoma's hunting and fishing licenses, permits, stamps and their associated fees.

Currently, authority over the creation of, or amendments to, Oklahoma's hunting and fishing licenses is vested in the state legislature. Amending hunting and fishing license requirements and fees through the legislative process has created a complex system that has, at times, led to confusion among license buyers. Over 150 separate licenses, permits, and stamps currently exist for hunters and anglers to navigate to ensure that they are legally licensed to head afield. SB 774 and HB 2214 would grant the Commission the authority to reduce, modify and otherwise simplify permit and stamp offerings to provide a more-easily navigated experience for Oklahoma's sportsmen and women.

More importantly, these bills will allow the Commission to nimbly adjust Oklahoma's hunting and fishing license framework, which will benefit both their conservation efforts and Oklahoma's sportsmen and women, without requiring these changes to go through the full legislative process. Such authority will ease the burden currently placed on the legislature and allow the Commission to efficiently address the concerns and confusion often experienced by hunters and anglers.

NDA strongly believes that wildlife management decision-making, including authority over licenses, permits, stamps and fees, should lie in the hands of professional wildlife managers responsible for managing, protecting and conserving the resource. The Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission, representing the self-funded Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC), is best situated to make decisions and adjustments regarding Oklahoma's hunting and fishing license framework. We fully support SB 774 and HB 2214, and we encourage your colleagues to vote YEA on these important pieces of legislation.

Sincerely,

Torin Miller
Director of Policy