



**State Representatives Bill Patmon
Sponsor Testimony
House Bill 152
April 25, 2017**

Good afternoon Madam Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Lipps, Ranking Member Leland and members of the House Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 152, a bill that will require an applicant for a hunting license to specify whether he or she has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a felony.

House Bill 152 introduces a necessary requirement for those individuals who wish to apply for and obtain a hunting license. Currently, an individual shall provide his or her name, date of birth, weight, height and place of residence. This information remains unchanged within the language of House Bill 152. In addition to the above, under House Bill 152 an individual would be required to indicate on their application any past felony convictions or felony guilty pleas. The purpose of disclosing a felony conviction is so that we are better able to make distinctions between law-abiding citizens who have given us no reason to distrust them with a firearm and those citizens who are convicted felons and should therefore be restricted in access to and use of firearms when discussing wildlife sporting activities. Assuming an individual has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a felony, the subsequent hunting license, if granted, will include the term "firearm restricted" in a box adjacent to that which the issuing agent shall check. House Bill 152 is a necessary piece of legislation as it will keep firearms out of the hands of those individuals who pose a threat to their counterparts in the gaming community.

Again, thank you Madam Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Lipps, Ranking Member Leland and members of the House Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee. I will be happy to answer any questions that you may have at this time.