

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 2213

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

---

Hearing Date: March 24, 2021 8:00 AM

---

Joseph Hauss

Self

Lakeway, TX

Texas' abundant exotic wildlife is a renewable resource that should be able to be utilized to feed the hungry in our state. These are great resources of lean meat and protein that can go far in decreasing the number of people going hungry in Texas.

David May

self

San Antonio, TX

If the fact that altruistic actions by hunters is not a good enough reason to pass a bill, how about the thousands of people that have lost jobs in Texas due to a pandemic. Providing people another means to get high quality protein is not something that should be up for a debate. Texas has been hit hard, like the rest of the country, with the shutdowns and abhorrent snow storms. We as a people, should be doing everything in our power to help each other and passing this bill would be a small but helpful endeavor in doing so.

Monica Williamson

self

Cypress, TX

The purpose of this correspondence is to express my support for H.B. 2213-Relating to the slaughter and processing of exotic animals for donation to a nonprofit food bank.

People that hunt in the state of Texas provide critical support for wildlife, habitat, and conservation through the purchase of hunting equipment and licenses. Hunters also provide sources of protein, to individuals in need, through donations of legally harvested wild game to qualified food processors and food banks. One such group, Trinity Oaks Foundation of San Antonio, annually processes over 100,000 pounds of wild game that was donated by hunters. This game is then provided to individuals and families that would otherwise go without a source of protein. There are many other organizations, such as Hunters for the Hungry, which provide the same needed outreach to the people of Texas.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Texas Department of State Health Services issued a waiver to allow for the donation and processing of exotic animals until the March 13, 2020 disaster declaration is lifted or expires (Texas Health and Safety Code, Sections 433.021 and 433.022). <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/waivers.aspx>

Current law only allows for the donation of native species to qualifying, regulated food banks and processors, even though exotic species and native species in Texas share the same habitat. By updating the existing law to allow for the donation of legally harvested exotic species, thousands more could be fed. I urge you to pass this bill. Best regards, Monica Williamson

Cyrus Baird

Safari Club International

Printed on: April 1, 2021 6:43 PM

Washington, TX

To: Chair Representative Klick & Vice-Chair Representative Guerra  
Texas House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768-2910

RE: House Bill 2231 (Relating to the slaughter and processing of exotic animals for donation to a nonprofit food bank.)

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chairwoman Klick and Vice-Chairman Guerra,

On behalf of Safari Club International and our members both across the world and in Texas, I want to express our support for Representative Frullo's House Bill 2213 – legislation to allow for the slaughter and processing of exotic animals for donation to a nonprofit food bank in Texas.

As you know, hunters are some of the most generous individuals when it comes to conserving species and habitats. They regularly purchase hunting licenses, tags, firearms, and ammunition that either all or portions of the sale go directly towards conservation efforts in Texas.

Hunters are also extremely generous when it comes to the donation of game meat. Sharing high quality protein with friends, family, and those in need, through programs like Safari Club International Foundation's own "Sportsmen Against Hunger" and "Hunters for the Hungry", is a great way for hunters to give back to their local communities. Through these programs, hunters can drop off legally tagged, field-dressed qualifying animals to participating meat processors. The partner processors then prepare the meat for distribution through local food banks.

For decades, programs like these have given hunters a meaningful way to give back to their community and has resulted in over 10 million servings of venison distributed to hungry Texans across the state.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Texas Department of State Health Services issued a waiver to allow for the donation and processing of exotic animals until the March 13, 2020 disaster declaration is lifted or expires (Texas Health and Safety Code, Sections 433.021 and 433.022).

However, current law only allows for the donation of native species to qualifying, regulated food bank or processors despite exotic species sharing the same habitat with native species in Texas. Updating existing law to allow for an exemption for the donation of exotic species beyond the pandemic will play a critical role in increasing the number of high protein sources donated and delivered to thousands of Texans who need it the most.

We thank you for your consideration on this important piece of legislation and look forward to working with you going forward.

Respectfully,  
Cyrus Hunter Baird

Sheldon Nicolle  
self - Self Employed - Pest Control  
Tom Bean, TX

I fully endorse and completely support the harvesting and processing of exotic animals for donation to a nonprofit food bank. Though exotic wildlife are usually managed, they possess the same qualities and health benefits of native wildlife sourced from the wild.

Below are examples of exotic game meats and their nutritional benefits:

Printed on: April 1, 2021 6:43 PM

### Rabbit

Rabbit is gaining popularity among chefs due to its exceptional nutritional profile and sustainability (rabbits eat grass, not grains). Its flavor is described as mild and it can be prepared in the same way you'd cook chicken. The USDA National Nutrient Database lists wild raw rabbit as having 97 calories, 2 grams of fat (0.6 grams saturated), 18.5 grams of protein, and 69 milligrams of cholesterol for a 3-ounce serving.

### Ostrich

Although it's a bird, ostrich meat is often described as tasting much like beef. It's chock-full of B-vitamins, which play a key role in healthy metabolism. The USDA National Nutrient Database lists raw ostrich tenderloin as having 105 calories, 2.7 grams of fat (1 gram saturated), 18.8 grams of protein, and 68 milligrams of cholesterol for a 3-ounce serving.

### Bison

Bison is incredibly lean, making it a smart choice for replacing fattier cuts of beef since the taste is quite similar but a little sweeter. The USDA National Nutrient Database shows that raw bison provides 93 calories, 1.6 grams of fat (0.6 grams saturated), 18.4 grams of protein, and 53 milligrams of cholesterol for a 3-ounce serving.

### Venison (Deer)

Deer meat has a taste and texture close to beef but with a slightly more gamey flavor. The USDA National Nutrient Database lists raw deer meat as having 102 calories, 2.1 grams of fat (0.8 grams saturated), 19.5 grams of protein, and 72 milligrams of cholesterol for a 3-ounce serving.

### Wild Boar

While wild boars may catch a bad reputation for their ugly appearance and wild behavior (pun intended), they're making their way onto our plates because of their excellent nutritional profile. You might guess that wild boar would taste like pork, but this couldn't be further from the truth. Wild boar meat has a strong, nutty, rich flavor that is unique and often not comparable to other meats. The USDA National Nutrient Database reveals that raw wild boar provides 104 calories, 2.8 grams of fat (0.8 grams saturated), and 18.3 grams of protein.

### Elk

Elk meat tastes similar to beef but is a little more mild and sweet. The USDA National Nutrient Database shows that raw wild elk provides 94 calories, 1.2 grams of fat (0.5 grams saturated), 19.5 grams of protein, and 47 milligrams of cholesterol for a 3-ounce serving.

### Goat

Across the world, more goat is eaten than any other meat. Its flavor has been described as savory, less sweet than beef, and similar to lamb. It's also highly-sustainable. According to the USDA National Nutrient Database, raw goat provides 93 calories, 2 grams of fat (0.6 grams saturated), 17.5 grams of protein, and 48 milligrams of cholesterol per a 3-ounce serving.