



KANSAS RURAL CENTER

FOR THE HEALTH OF THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE

KANSAS RURAL CENTER

PO Box 314

North Newton, KS 67117

(866) 579-5469

www.kansasruralcenter.org

January 22, 2024

Written Proponent Testimony on HB 2541
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Dear Chairman Rahjes and Members of the House Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 2541, which would create a new, dedicated state funding stream for conservation efforts. I'm the Executive Director of the Kansas Rural Center, which has been working to build an economically viable, ecologically sound and socially just farming and food system for Kansans for over 40 years. Conservation has long been a cornerstone of our work and is why the Kansas Rural Center joined the Kansans for Conservation Coalition to advance this funding initiative. We know that conservation and soil health are essential for the future of our food and farming systems and the well-being of Kansas communities.

We are enthused that this committee is undertaking a bill that will provide stable funding for conservation projects across Kansas. While other states have dedicated sources of funding for conservation efforts, state funds for conservation in Kansas are significantly lacking. With HB 2541, we have an opportunity to maximize our capacity to improve and maintain soil health of our lands, provide increased benefit to Kansas wildlife and habitat, and create better recreational opportunities for our citizens and visitors to enjoy the wonders of our natural environment. Our soils and lands are fundamental to our quality of life and agricultural enterprises, so HB 2541 is worth every penny (and probably more).

Thank you for your consideration. We urge you to pass HB 2541 this session.

Sincerely,
Tom Buller
Kansas Rural Center
tom@kansasruralcenter.org