

House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee March 6, 2024 HB 2800

Kansas Association of Counties Proponent Testimony – Written Only

Chairman Rahjes and members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Association of Counties to offer its support for HB 2800, which would increase the funding cap for conservation districts. The bill would also increase the match to a \$2 to \$1 basis from the division of conservation to conservation districts.

Conservation districts were established by the legislature in 1937 as a result of soil erosion during the Dust Bowl era. Conservation districts serve to protect soil, water and other natural resources. These districts are primarily funded by appropriations from the county general fund and the matching funds from the division of conservation. Increasing the available funding by increasing the match rate will help conservation districts continue their important work.

KAC would respectfully ask that the committee support HB 2800 and pass it out of this committee favorably.

Thank you for the time and consideration of these comments. Please feel free to contact KAC with any questions that you may have.

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