Testimony on HB 2363
In opposition
House Committee on Local Government

February 9, 2026

By Brad Loveless

Dear Chairman Bergquist and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brad Loveless and I am here to testify in opposition to HB 2363. My career has been spent on environmental public policy and conservation issues and I remember working in support of the statute that codified conservation easements in KS over 30 years ago. That statute has worked extremely well, allowing private landowners to make decisions about their land based on their personal priorities which have no impact on their neighbors. This right to make decisions about one's own property is fundamental to what Kansans value.

Most Kansans, and I think most of this committee, believe that government should involve itself in only issues that are of collective interest to its constituents. Conservations easements do not qualify for that for that because the essence of a conservation easement is to keep the land in the form that is currently operating. The landowner says that they want to keep this bottom ground in row crops, that upland in pasture and my house and barn up in this corner, that simple. In the history of this statute in Kansas, it's worked well because local governments have not felt the need to make a decision about if a landowner should be able to keep doing what they're already doing, This makes common sense. Adding another layer of bureaucracy has not been needed, would not be welcomed by Kansans, and in my experience is something this legislature avoids.

Bills similar to HB 2362 have been recycled periodically in the last 30 plus years and have never gotten strong support. While I have a firm belief in recycling, when something no longer has useful life, it should be thrown away. Respectfully, I believe that should be the fate of HB 2363.

Thank you.