

Testimony of Marci Laffen

Land Owner

Agriculture and Natural Resources House Committee

Hearing on HB 2541

“Establishing the state conservation fund, the working lands conservation fund, the wildlife conservation fund and the Kansas outdoors fund, providing for the use of moneys from such funds, requiring certain reports to the governor and the legislature and authorizing certain transfers to and from such funds.”

Greetings Chair Rahjes, and Vice Chair Moser, and committee members,

Thank you for hearing/receiving my testimony today. I rise to speak against HB 2541.

I grew up on a farm homesteaded by my ancestors. My family even won a conservation award for the terracing we did on the hilly fields in northeast Nebraska. Farmer and ranchers love their land and work to preserve it for the next generation. They must practice conservation for their property to make a profit while ensuring the land will be replenished to produce for their lifetime and the next lifetime of the family members to come. They have skin in the game. If the land is not preserved, they don't eat. Their kids go without. They know firsthand the need to care for the land. The tone of this bill is that land is not being conserved and the government must be involved for that to happen. That is offensive, and simply not true. In addition, what about liberty in land ownership? Does government think it is a nanny state?

I have grave concerns about this bill for a variety of reasons. First and foremost, I am very disappointed to see yet again the attempt to grow the state government. There are those who think we need our share of federal funds, but is it forgotten where those dollars come from? They were not donated. They are first apprehended from the taxpayer.

The federal debt now sits over 33 trillion dollars, and it grows by the minute. The interest rate alone approaches 2 trillion dollars. Yet the states scramble to get their share. What comes with their share? Many strings which mean regulations. A good percentage of the money is lost to red tape and bureaucracy. I am attaching below the links to the federal government's pages on Biden's implementation of his executive order that has the goal of attaining 30% of our nation's land and waters by 2030, and the next goal of 50% by 2050. Please understand the bigger goal, and that they've already had massive success by similar means in the West where 50% of the land is already controlled by the federal government.

If any of these 501c(4)'s yoke with the federal government on conservation, they will in turn be implementing the federal government's definition of conservation, and that is very restrictive. It also means the landowner is under those regulations as well, limiting their ability to work the land, run cattle on it, and then some. Please see the links below from the federal sites. We already face the threat of

millions of acres being taken out of production as Kansas is targeted for wind and solar energy. And all of these lands would not generate taxes and that burden would fall on fewer people.

When yoking with the federal government today, I don't think it's news to any of you that it brings in this administration's attempts to socially change our nation and they do that with DEI language and requirements, environmental justice, the Justice 40 Initiative, and then some. This is about control and a bigger agenda of controlling land in the name of false climate science.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/02/01/2021-02177/tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/M-21-28.pdf> "Interim Implementation Guidance for the Justice40 Initiative" July 20, 2021. This is common for them to change the language of these things so we can't track them as easily. This went from "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad" to "Justice40 Initiative" and also "America the Beautiful."

<https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/report-conserving-and-restoring-america-the-beautiful-2021.pdf>

I urge you to vote "no" on this HB 2541 as I am against growing the state government, continuing to put our nation further in debt with federal spending, and for the ever encroachment of control and stripping of freedom in land ownership. Thank you for your consideration.