



To: House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, Rep. Ken Rahjes, Chair

From: James Millensifer, Board President / Ringneck Classic Inc.

Date: January 22nd, 2024

RE: HB 2541 – Establishing a state conservation fund

Chairman Rahjes and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2541. The Kansas Governor's Ringneck Classic is a member of the Kansans for Conservation coalition which has led the collaborative drafting process of HB 2541.

Conservation is the proper management of our natural resources and there are few investments more critical to the quality of life in Kansas. Our economic success, public health, and future generations are dependent upon us maintaining and improving these resources. Currently, the state does not provide the proper funding for this work and is subsequently losing out on federal or private matching dollars to the 35 states that have already established dedicated conservation funding, including all four of our neighbors.

The Ringneck Classic, Inc. is a 501(c)3 corporation in the state of Kansas. The PURPOSE of the Classic is to "Bring people together for an annual pheasant hunt that raises funds to benefit the Northwest Kansas Conservation Foundation (NWKCF), promote hunting tourism and contribute to local economies."

The NWKCF's VISION is to "Support wildlife and habitat conservation, the development of public upland hunting, outdoor youth opportunities, and new hunters and shooters."

Our MISSION is to "Distribute grants to organizations in NW Kansas that fulfill the foundations' vision."

As outlined above and by our fellow coalition members, the establishment of state conservation funding benefits all Kansans, allows for the proper stewardship of the resources bestowed upon us, and enables the state to be competitive for match opportunities. Therefore, we ask you to support HB 2541.

Ringneck Classic, Inc.
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