



Proponent: HB 2541

January 19, 2024

Dear Chairman Rahjes and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources:

The Kansas Food and Farm Coalition supports the passage of House Bill 2541, establishing the state conservation fund, the working lands conservation fund, the wildlife conservation fund and the Kansas outdoors fund.

In particular, the working lands conservation fund and associated grant fund will promote conservation practices that are critical to improving soil health, increasing water use efficiency, and creating more resilient agricultural systems in our state. The types of projects outlined in the bill are proven best practices that we know work on Kansas farms and working lands. We also celebrate the recognition in the bill that funds can support educational programs that support Kansans' knowledge of our food system. Connecting Kansans - both urban and rural - to the source of their food is critical to creating healthy Kansas communities and preserving our rich agricultural heritage.

The Kansas Food and Farm Coalition (FFC) is a group of long-standing Kansas nonprofit organizations concerned about our food system - from farm to fork. In recognition of how interwoven food system issues are, these organizations have come together to support policies that grow Kansas communities' local food systems. This includes policies that support small and mid-sized farms, increase production and sales of locally grown foods, increase access to healthy food for all, and improve food security in our communities.

Respectfully,

Kansas Food Action Network
Kansas Rural Center
KC Healthy Kids
Harvesters

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