



February 5, 2024

House Committee on Agriculture
Rep. Ken Rahjes, Chair

Re: HB 2541 AN ACT concerning natural resources; relating to state moneys for conservation; establishing the state conservation fund.

Position: Opponent

The Kansas Cattleman's Association (KCA) formed in 1998 serves USA agriculture and independent beef producers since 1998. The Kansas Cattlemen's Association is committed to restoring profits, self-esteem, freedom, fair trade, trust, and community pride back to the farms, ranches and rural communities across Kansas and the nation.

The Kansas Cattlemen's Association (KCA) and its members are opposed House Bill 2541 and its creation of a state conservation fund.

Access to conservation grant funding through public and private sources are already available to the landowners, public entities, and companies throughout Kansas and the United States.

Private property rights and protection of landowner's rights are supported by the membership of KCA. Rather than supporting working landowners this bill provides state agencies and government entities and non-profits funding in the name of conservation on private working lands.

Not only does this bill not provide the funds directly to actual landowners and workers of the land, but it also lacks real prescribed restrictions and goals for the use and application of these funds. The funding administration and grant rules have been left out of this bill and left for the unelected state agencies to determine, eliminating the citizens Kansas control of the funds that would be appropriated.

The Kansas Cattlemen's Association and its members oppose HB 2541 and its creation of a state conservation fund.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Steele", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Matthew T. Steele, Ph.D, P.E.
Kansas Cattlemen's Association
Executive Director