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

From: Kanza Rail-Trails Conservancy, member of Kansans for Conservation

Date: February 6, 2025

RE: HB 2063 – Establishing a state conservation fund

Chairman Rahjes and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 2063.

This bill would provide approximately \$16 million annually for parks and trails. Nonprofits such as Kanza Rail-Trails Conservancy which built 60 miles of the Flint Hills Trail State Park would be eligible to apply for funds to develop more trails in the state for the benefit of all Kansans. Funding for the fund would not require new taxes as it would allocate 50% of sales taxes on sporting goods and a portion of the state lottery proceeds to the fund.

The State Conservation Fund will benefit the residents of Kansas for many years to come. This investment in the state's infrastructure will return many benefits, especially the enhancement of the health and quality of life of Kansans. Kansans love parks and trails. Please support HB 2063. Thank you for paying attention to our comments.