



Since 1894

Date: February 6, 2025

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

From: Taylor Nikkel, Director of Stockgrowers Division, Kansas Livestock Association

Re: **HB 2063 AN ACT concerning natural resources; relating to state moneys for conservation; establishing the state conservation fund.**

Position: Opponent, In-Person

*The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), formed in 1894, is a trade association representing more than 5,700 members on legislative and regulatory issues. KLA members are involved in many aspects of the livestock industry, including seed stock, cow-calf, and stocker cattle production; cattle feeding; dairy production; swine production; grazing land management; and diversified farming operations.*

Thank you, Chairman Rahjes, and members of the Committee, for allowing the Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) the opportunity to share our views on HB 2063. In its current form, KLA opposes HB 2063 because a conflict in the bill language could be interpreted to allow the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) to use the wildlife conservation fund to acquire additional land. While Section 1(a)(2) prohibits land acquisition in the primary conservation fund, Section 3(g) suggests state agencies could use the wildlife conservation fund to purchase land. With a simple amendment to address a believed drafting error discussed below, KLA could become neutral the bill.

KLA cannot support allowing use of the wildlife conservation fund for KDWP fee simple acquisition of land. KLA policy states, "the Kansas Livestock Association opposes the purchase or acquisition of additional land by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks." This policy was driven by members who have observed KDWP land being mismanaged over the years. State lands that should be native grasslands have often been allowed to devolve into properties infested with invasive and noxious plant species. Instead of land acquisitions, KLA believes KDWP's "current budget authority for land acquisition should be repurposed to control invasive species and restore native grasslands." KLA recommends the Committee amend HB 2063 by deleting subsection (g) in section 3 of the bill.

KLA appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony as an opponent of HB 2063. If the Committee removes the ability of KDWP to use the funds to buy more land, KLA will become neutral on the bill.