

I, Desree Pettera, stand opposed to HB 2063.

My biggest concern is with the overreach of government control in rural areas and especially the government push for control of our privately owned property. The right to own and the use of the property we own does not need more government rules and regulations or any more control.

One of the recent regs that livestock producers are strongly opposed to are cattle EID tags. This is well documented. This just adds to the cost of raising livestock and filters back to the consumer. This is a precursor to the government controlling the livestock industry. The government needs to stay out of farmers and ranchers lives. All the conservation programs just increase taxpayer cost.

This conservation dream by the government is no different. The government wants more control over us. Why do they keep wanting to make it more difficult for farmers and ranchers to survive off the land? All of these programs help to curtail food production.

According to the Biden and Obama Administration this is what the government is seeking. Under the Biden administration the government wanted to control 30% of the Land. 50% by 2050. This is all part of the Biden “Build Back Better” program that is breaking this country.

This kind of arbitrary “nonsensical” spending needs to cease. We have roads that need repair, we have so much that is actually “needed to be fixed” in America and our tax dollars are allocated for this unnecessary “nonsense”.

Under the Biden and Obama administrations, grazing rights that had been utilized for decades were being curtailed. Much on BLM ground. Why? Livestock running on grass is the best way to manage rangeland. That is proven. It is the purpose of the grasslands. That keeps the grasslands healthy.

The government is now very actively trying to destroy rural America by destroying livestock producers. That is a fact. Just read the Livestock journals and magazines. Thank heavens MSM doesn’t have that controlled yet. I probably should have kept my mouth shut about that. So many “real, truthful news” sources no longer exist.

Look at California and what happened there with mismanagement of the land because of environmentalists wanting nothing maintained. Is this what the taxpayer is funding? It sure sounds like we are again searching for another “endangered” species or plant to protect.

Why does the government seem to think that they are better managers for rural properties and Natural resources.

We don't need anymore conservation pushed upon us. We don't need to waste tax dollars on this. We don't need to pay the government to destroy us.

\$60,000,000. Just what exactly are our tax dollars purchasing? When I pay a bill, I want to know what I am paying for.

When I look at what this bill lists as conservation spending, all I see is a bunch of what I call "foofoo" spending. My short sarcastic term I use for purchasing things not needed. It is all "foofoo". No reason, no purpose. Just a wish list by a government agency to protect something that doesn't need protected or something that hasn't even been found yet to protect.

I looked up the working lands conservation fund. Check it out. Just what on that website so we not have now?

Our lands are already well cared for by our farmers and ranchers. We do not need the government to force more rules and regulations on us.

Again, are we hoping that we find an endangered species or plant so that we can steal more property rights?

I remember listening to a Wildlife and Parks presentation on proposed budgeting last year. I was shocked at things some of the things they were proposing. They wanted to take road funds and use this for an unneeded Flint Hills Trail. How much rural property would be taken for this? It was obvious they couldn't maintain what they already have and this bill just increases what they are responsible for. It sounded like they couldn't even find workers to maintain the property under their control. Can they really handle more unneeded conservation?

If any of you support these trail systems, just remember..... they create them with our tax dollars and then the taxpayer has to maintain and police them. We cannot afford it!!

Someone outside of Wildlife and Parks needs to monitor how \$60,000,000 is spent. There go more tax dollars for auditing.

Tax Payers are broke! We can not afford any more spending.

I was at one of the water seminars late last summer. I was sort of shocked at one of the posters they asked for discussion about. It wasn't about water. It was about \$\$\$\$. One poster was asking us what we thought about allocating \$140,000,000 for Water issues. I had no idea what water issues they were trying to fix. I had no idea how existing funding

had already been spent. They wanted to know if we thought that was appropriate. I was shocked.

No one spoke up so I did. I do have a finance background. From the real business world, not the government world. Of course it might be easier handling finances in the government. Seems to be no requirement to “balance the books”. Sorry for the “pun”.

I asked them what exactly is that \$140,000,000 going to be used for. How have water funds already been spent? They had already been allocated \$\$\$, but I have not seen any water improvements or problems tackled in a concrete way. Just talk and studies is all I have ever seen.

Now I did see that there was a grant program that was used for small communities to upgrade water systems. Now that is productive, but I only think that the cost problem dealing with water and waste water is due to all of the Federal and State Rules and Regulations. I have not researched this, but from things I have researched, rules and regs are helping to destroy this country.

I saw a list of projects that needed to be completed. One was for the dredging of Tuttle Creek Lake which is silting in. There were others listed. Why weren't these funds being used for these projects? Are these water funds used for only studies? Quit funding all items like these and “get the job done”!!

I told them there needed to be a full financial analysis of how previous water tax dollars are being used before any more tax \$\$\$ are appropriated to this water authority group.

That is what I see lacking again. I as a taxpayer want to see where every dollar is allocated. I want to see something “concrete” accomplished. Not just a lot of talk and engineering studies.

Our property and real estate taxes are out of control. Our sales taxes are out of control. Now I have heard talk of another tax. An Earnings Tax. Not too long ago the federal government proposed tax or penalty for “cow farts”. Now when will the government start taxing the air we breath? This is out of control.

I am so tired of government environmental and climate control projects. We cannot afford it. Tax dollars need to go back to our local governments, both local and county, so that property and real estate taxes can be lowered. Our local governments seem to be forced to continually increase sales tax to survive. As stated before, government growth is out of control.

Did you know that our personal property value went up 300% last year. Our local government told us this was done because of the state government forcing personal

property values onto the local governments. How do you expect taxpayers to continue paying these taxes?

This \$60,000,000 is wasteful, unneeded spending.

Why not send any requests like the one in this bill to DOGE? We need the new Kansas Department of Government Efficiency to be active in Kansas. This bill is a good example as to why DOGE is needed and we need good senators and representatives leading it.

This type of spending has to end.

Look at:

Section 1 (c) - ½ of the funds will go to the Working lands conservation fund. When I look at this I see it as just an environmentalist “play fund”. Look it up on the internet. We can’t afford this unneeded environmental spending. Totally unnecessary. It even includes a grant fund. I am so sick and tired of all this grant funding. Now will another Conservation NGO or Non Profit be created to accomplish the things that they cannot get done legislatively?

They also want to use these funds to cover the administration of these grant funds. Another government job we as taxpayers will be paying for. More rules and regs the taxpayer has to pay for?

I can only imagine the administrative costs that will be incurred.

We don’t need anymore government. We don’t need an expansion of so called “government services”. Taxpayers cannot maintain the cost of all of our governments’ so called taxpayer services.

I as a taxpayer am tired of paying to maintain an environment that is perfectly normal. Farmers and Ranchers are very good at living with mother nature, and working to nurture the land and livestock and wildlife around us. We depend on it, the government does not. The government just wants full control of all property. Want Proof? Look at this bill. This is what the government is pushing for.

The government depends on the taxpayer and we, the taxpayer, have almost been destroyed by the government programs like these.

Thank you for reading, thank you for serving us,

Desree Pettera.