

**To: House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Representative Ken Rahjes, Chair**

**From: Ginny Moore, Kansas State Director
The Conservation Fund**

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 testimony in support of House Bill 2063, a bill to establish a state conservation fund for Kansas. The Conservation Fund is a member of the Kansans for Conservation coalition which has led the collaborative drafting process of House Bill 2063.

At The Conservation Fund, we practice conservation to achieve both natural resource protection and economic vitality, assuring that the value of America's natural resources remains essential to our prosperity. Nowhere is this dual approach to conservation – natural resource protection and economic prosperity – more necessary than in Kansas. Driven by its agricultural roots, our State's economic success, public health and quality of life depend on protecting the natural resources upon which our agricultural economy relies.

State conservation funding can be used to expand tourism and improve Kansans' health and quality of life by providing resources for a myriad of recreational amenities like city and county parks, hiking and biking trails, hunting and fishing options and the chance for all Kansans to enjoy the beauty and tranquility that nature offers.

Currently 35 states, including all four of our neighboring states, have established dedicated conservation funding, allowing them to leverage private or federal dollars that require a state match. Let's not leave money on the table and lose out to our neighboring states. For the reasons stated above, we ask you to support House Bill 2063.

Please feel free to contact me at the email or phone number below. Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.