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February 4, 2025

Kansas House Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget Committee

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in opposition to HB2063. Last year I attended the committee meeting regarding this same subject, and I want to express that I am against this bill.

I represent taxpayers, many of whom are also farmers, ranchers and business owners. They elected me to try to be as fiscally responsible as possible. Over the past several years, our county has done everything we could to reduce spending and decrease taxes. We have had some success in doing this within the scope of the budget that we control. However, there is still a struggle that many are dealing with financially, and this is no time to add to that struggle.

If people want to donate to these "charity" organizations, they are welcome to, but we should not be using taxpayer funds for this. While I would say that most of the people in my county are interested in and practice conservation, we do so of our own volition, and we do not need organizations trying to take control over our property or our tax money.

One only needs to consult the wise words of Alexander Fraser Tytler, Lord Woodhouselee, who discussed the collapse of democracy being rooted in people trying to vote themselves large sums of money from the public treasury. One can also consult the wise words of Mr. Horatio Bunce, who mentored Colonel Davy Crockett (serving in Congress at the time) regarding the misuse of funds and the unconstitutionality of spending money belonging to the taxpayers on items that are not directly related to the business that representatives were elected to execute. --"It is not the amount, Colonel, that I complain of; it is the principle. In the first place, the government ought to have in the treasury no more than enough for its legitimate purposes. But that has nothing to do with the question. The power of collecting and disbursing money at pleasure is the most dangerous power that can be entrusted to man."

I humbly request that if anything is to be done with this \$60 million, that it be returned to the taxpayers. I was told last year by a legislator that this couldn't be done (I believe he was asking for as much or more than this amount for a similar project), as it would put the state into financial despair. If returning this money to the taxpayers would put the state into budget problems, then so would giving it to organizations such as these.

Thank you for hearing my testimony,



Marcus F. Rogge

Commissioner, District 1

Haskell County