

To: The Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

RE: HB. 2063

My name is Mary Powell, I have worked in agriculture for forty plus years and in those years, I have worked in the beef, dairy, poultry, farming and I am currently a goat rancher. Many of you know me by my goats, the Barnyard Weed Warriors, who have a small celebrity status as weed and brush goats that manage land. I get the opportunity to visit with farmers and ranchers not only in Kansas but also in other states about land management using goats as an alternative to chemical and mechanical land management options. I also visit with Kansas farmers and ranchers about various concerns of Conservation and the difficult and extremely confusing farm programs that the government (Both Federal and State) has to help them manage land. Most of the programs are written by people who have little or no hands-on experience but believe in the Green New Deal theory and the theory of global warming. No one I have visited with in the past several years agrees with those theories! I am not talking to a small number of people either, I have talked with hundreds. I am going to be very blunt about this bill and I won't sound nice, but it is truthful and to the point.

This bill is nothing less than an extension of Joe Biden's Executive order 14008 aka 30x30 Land Grab! Taking taxpayer money and giving it to Non-Government Organizations (NGO's) to implement programs that can have unintended consequences. While the premise sounds great and I am the first one to say conservation of the land is important, however, infringing on people who aren't part of the program is wrong and there will be people negatively affected.

I have the following concerns:

1. **\$60,000,000!** How is Kansas going to afford this? I don't care what anyone says, taxes **will have to** be raised, and I am sure city slickers won't like the idea of giving money to NGO's with the excuse they are going to teach farmers and ranchers how to conserve the land.
2. Farmers and ranchers aren't stupid! They look for better ways to conserve the soil and manage the land in logical ways. Many times, government programs come with grandiose

ideologies that don't work **or put too many restrictions** on the landowners. Have you ever read one of the federal government's conservation program rules? It is a nightmare! I tried to help a landowner get a cost -share for using goats to manage brush and after reading the program both of us decided it was best we kept the government out of the project.

3. Non-Government Organizations managing tax dollars is a **huge red flag** because a person cannot file **Freedom of Information requests (FOIA)** to find out how these NGO's are **managing the money**. I have seen this too many times with National Heritage Areas and Trails. **You can't follow the money** because NGO's are ways to siphon money to people who aren't doing anything and blowing our tax dollars needlessly.

Do you remember the November 2024 Presidential election and the overwhelming numbers who voted not necessarily for President Trump but for change in the way our government spends money? I do. We voted against the Green New Deal aka Joe Biden's Executive order 14008 aka the 30x30 Land Grab. We voted against government blowing money that taxpayers have to cough up . We voted against wasteful spending. We VOTED AGAINST THIS type of bill!

I am absolutely ashamed that Kansas is even considering such a waste of money! I have many negative words to describe this bill but the simplest is, IT STINKS TO HIGH HEAVEN! I would have been there in person to testify but my mother's septic tank needs to be pumped at the same time as this hearing and I am sure THAT WILL smell much nicer than HB 2063 smells right now! Please kill this bill it is an abuse of taxpayers and their hard-earned money. If farmers and ranchers want to conserve the land, give them the FREEDOM to do so without government interference and NGO's that blow money without consequences!

Sincerely,

Mary Powell

Longton, Kansas