



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

**From:** Nick Levendofsky, Executive Director, Kansas Farmers Union

**Date:** February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**RE:** HB 2063 – Establishing a state conservation fund

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Chairman Rahjes and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2063. Kansas Farmers Union is a proud member of the Kansans for Conservation coalition which has led the collaborative drafting process of HB 2063.

Conservation is the proper management of our natural resources and there are few investments more critical to the quality of life in Kansas. Our economic success, public health, and future generations are dependent upon us maintaining and improving these resources. Currently, the state does not provide dedicated funding for this work and is subsequently losing out on federal or private matching dollars to the 35 states that have already established dedicated conservation funding, including all four of our neighbors.

Since 1907, Kansas Farmers Union (KFU) has worked to protect and enhance the economic interests and quality of life for family farmers and ranchers and their communities.

We believe family ownership of farmland is the basis for the world's most viable system of food and fiber production. Maintaining this family farm system will preserve our natural and human resources as well as promote a strong economy and vibrant social structure.

Kansas Farmers Union's grassroots-based, member-driven policy reads, **"We support state funding and technical assistance for soil and water conservation practices."**

As outlined above and by our fellow coalition members, the establishment of state conservation funding benefits all Kansans, allows for the proper stewardship of the resources bestowed upon us, and enables the state to be competitive for match opportunities. Therefore, we ask you to support HB 2063.

Sincerely,

Nick Levendofsky  
Executive Director  
Kansas Farmers Union