



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

**From: David Rains, Director, CPRP, Coffeyville Recreation Commission**

**Date: February 4<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. We are the Coffeyville Recreation Commission in Southeast, KS. We are members 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.

The Coffeyville Recreation Commission serves approximately 15,000 patrons. We not only provide youth and adult sports, but also special event programming that helps make our community more healthy, vibrant and contributing to our quality of life.

We are immensely proud of our recent Phase III addition to Sherwin Williams Park. These amenities have had a profound impact on three facets to our community: Health (Outdoor Fitness Court), Recreation (2 Urban Soccer Fields), and Play (Inclusive Playground). Without grant funding, these types of projects would not be possible.

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.

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