



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

From: Karen Willey, Vice President, and William Bradley, President, FarmTender, LLC

Date: February 6th, 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 HB 2063. FarmTender, LLC brings regenerative farmers and ranchers together with the landowners who want them, at www.farmtender.us. 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.

Recent research by Dr. Chuck Rice and others at K-State has demonstrated how agriculture can not only cease contributing to climate change, but can actually become carbon-negative and help offset the carbon burden of other segments of the global economy. As farmers and ranchers, ourselves, we understand how important a stable climate is to food and fiber production. At FarmTender.us, we are helping to spread the type of practices that contribute to this positive outcome for agriculture. But farmers and ranchers need help making the transition. This bill will address a large need in making this happen.

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 entrusted to us by our parents, which we will someday pass down to our children, and enables the state to be competitive for match opportunities. We ask you to support HB 2063.



Sincerely,

Karen Willey, kwilley1@live.net, Baldwin City, KS

William Bradley, brad251@gmail.com, Overland Park, KS (ranches near Prescott, KS)