

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

**From: Floyd Schmidt – President Kansas Forestry Association]**

**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 Forestry Association, is a non -profit organization that supports the healthy woodlands of Kansas. 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.

KFA has a membership of approximately 300 members who care about the environment by not only working with trees but spend their time working with conservation and establishing prairies.snd creating buffer to control soil erosion. This bill would help funding to make for healthy woodland and other conservation projects.

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.