



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

From: Alfonso Leyva, President—Kansas Wildlife Federation

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. The Kansas Wildlife Federation, founded in 1950, is a grassroots organization of hunters, anglers, and concerned wildlife conservationists dedicated to sustainable use, conservation, appreciation, and the restoration of our state's wildlife and natural environment. We are members of the Kansas 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 Kansas Wildlife Federation envisions a future where Kansans are connected to nature and empowered as stewards of our state's lands and waters. Establishing a state conservation fund would provide critical, dedicated funding to protect wildlife habitats, enhance outdoor recreation, and support science-based conservation efforts. This investment would strengthen rural economies, preserve natural resources, and align with our mission to connect, inform, and empower Kansans in conservation. We urge your leadership in securing our state's natural legacy for future generations.

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.
