



Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever  
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February 3, 2026

Representative Ken Rahjes  
Chair, House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
300 SW 10<sup>th</sup> St.  
Topeka, KS 66612

**RE: Upland Game Bird Stamp and Expanded Use of Funds**

Chair Rahjes, Vice Chair Neelly, and members of the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 2547. We commend the intent behind this bill—creating an upland game bird stamp and a dedicated fund reflects a strong conservation ethic and recognizes that hunters are willing to invest directly in the future of upland wildlife and hunting opportunity in Kansas.

Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving upland wildlife through habitat improvements, public access, education, and conservation advocacy. In Kansas, we represent nearly 9,000 members, organized through 45 local chapters and supported by 37 full-time staff working on the ground in partnership with landowners, communities, and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

Kansas supports widely distributed, wild populations of upland birds, including pheasants and quail, and decades of management experience show that these populations respond most strongly and consistently to habitat availability and quality. Habitat—nesting cover, brood-rearing habitat, winter cover, and connected landscapes—is the foundation of sustainable upland bird populations and long-term hunting opportunity.

HB 2547 establishes an important funding mechanism, and we respectfully urge the Committee to consider allowing stamp revenues to be used for habitat conservation and public access efforts. Expanding the eligible uses of the fund would significantly increase its conservation return on investment.

While bird releases typically serve limited purposes, particularly short-term hunting opportunity, long-term population growth and hunting opportunity are driven by habitat and access. Strategic investments in habitat improvement benefit wild birds year after year, increase resilience during drought and harsh winters, support a wide range of wildlife beyond upland species, and enable satisfying days afield for both new and experienced hunters.

Investments in access—such as walk-in hunting programs, access agreements, and improvements on public lands—are equally important since access is consistently cited as a limiting factor by hunters. These efforts ensure that the hunters who purchase the stamp have meaningful, equitable opportunities to hunt, and that conservation dollars translate directly into public benefit.



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Many states have demonstrated that dedicated upland funding is most effective when it prioritizes habitat and access, while allowing agencies flexibility to respond to local conditions. Providing that flexibility within HB 2547 would strengthen the bill, build broad hunter support, and deliver lasting conservation outcomes.

In closing, we appreciate the Legislature's focus on upland conservation. We respectfully ask the Committee to amend HB 2547 to allow stamp revenues to also be invested in habitat conservation and public access, ensuring the fund supports sustainable wild bird populations and high-quality hunting opportunities for future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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