



House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 2279- Exempting Wildlife & Parks from REINS Act

Presented by Eric Stafford, VP of Government Affairs, Kansas Chamber

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Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber represents small, medium and large businesses of all industry segments across the state. We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to House Bill 2279, which exempts the Department of Wildlife and Parks from the REINS Act passed by the Legislature in 2024.

Our opposition for this bill is simple. The REINS Act was passed to provide stronger protections to industry and taxpayers impacted by state regulations. What the REINS Act does is any state agency proposing rules and regulations which exceed \$1,000,000 by those impacted in the economic impact statement over the first five years of implementation, need to pass a bill by through the Legislature authorizing the regulation to go into effect.

If we want, as a public policy, to start exempting agencies who do not want to comply with the requirements of accountability to those affected with costly regulations, why pass the bill in the first place? If there's truly a regulation exceeding the \$1 million over five year threshold and is justifiable, the Legislature should pass a bill authorizing such regulation to take effect.

In closing, the REINS Act went into effect this summer and here we are with the first agency seeking to exempt itself out of the requirements. We would ask that you oppose this legislation, and I'd be happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.