

**House Committee on Federal and State Affairs  
Proponent Testimony of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks  
House Bill 2505**

February 4, 2026

Chairman Kessler and Members of the Committee,

At its January 2026 meeting, the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission voted to request the introduction of House Bill 2505.

Through the Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act, K.S.A. 32-9057 *et seq.*, the Legislature has charged the Department of Wildlife and Parks with managing the State's wildlife resources, including threatened, endangered, and species in need of conservation. To do so, the Department routinely collects critical information about protected species through research, monitoring, and surveys.

Most data reflecting the location of protected species is gathered after a private landowner has granted the Department permission to search on their private property. As a result, the Department's ability to gather necessary information is predicated on its relationships with private landowners. This is particularly true because many locations where protected species are found include critical habitats in sensitive areas, such as caves, dens and nesting sites, and specific barns or farm outbuildings. Releasing these records to the public unnecessarily risks harm to both private landowners and the species. For instance, interested individuals may be willing to trespass on private property to view the animals and, in the process, disturb sensitive habitats. In the worst-case scenario, individuals may be willing to trespass to poach or harass the species.

House Bill 2505 would help the Department to collect critical information about species while also protecting private property interests by allowing the Department to close any precise location data for species that are (1) listed as threatened or endangered under federal law or (2) listed as threatened, endangered, or in need of conservation under state law.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on House Bill 2505. I am happy to provide additional information at the appropriate time.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher Kennedy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly legible.

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Christopher Kennedy  
Secretary  
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks