

# HOUSE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

BILL NUMBER: HB 2511

Support

Oppose

Neutral

Testimony Will Be: In Person Oral  Webex Oral  Written Only

For Meeting on February 4th, 2026  
(Date)

Testimony By: Justin Cobb, Jackie Garagiola  
(Name of person testifying)

On Behalf Of: Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Livestock Association  
(Association, Corporation, Individual)

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**Date:** February 4th, 2026  
**Re:** HB 2511 Written Opponent  
**To:** House Committee on Federal and State Affairs, Chairman Kessler  
**From:** Justin Cobb, Kansas Farm Bureau  
Jackie Garagiola, Kansas Livestock Association

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Chairman Kessler and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written opponent testimony on HB 2511 on behalf of Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) and the Kansas Livestock Association (KLA). KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 30,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau Association. The KLA formed in 1894, is a trade association representing nearly 5,600 members on legislative and regulatory issues. KLA members are involved in many aspects of the livestock industry, including seed stock, cow-calf, and stocker cattle production; cattle feeding; dairy production; swine production; grazing land management; and diversified farming operations.

Both organizations have member developed policy opposing the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) purchasing land. There are numerous reasons for this policy but included among them is the desire of our members to have the lands of Kansas be well stewarded. Appropriately managed properties prevent the spread of invasive species, decrease wildfire risk, and provide numerous benefits for both agriculture and the environment.

This standard of care is best achieved by a private landowner in pursuit of their economic interests. On state managed lands, government bureaucracy commonly interferes with best management practices to the detriment of the surrounding communities.

Currently, the funds received by KDWP from agricultural production on state lands are limited to the management of the property that generates them. HB 2511 would remove that restriction and allow the revenue to go towards "the management of all state-owned properties." As written, the bill would allow funds produced from agriculture at Tuttle Creek Wildlife Area to fund a renovation of the KDWP offices on Kansas Avenue.

Our understanding is that the intent of the agency is to balance revenues from their high earning properties with their low earning properties. If the committee decides to move forward with HB 2511, we recommend amending the bill to limit the use of agricultural revenue to habitat management for the reasons stated above. If that change is made both organizations would be neutral on HB 2511. We have included recommended language that would accomplish that effect.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony on HB 2511.



Proposed amendment in **bold underlined font**.

“(b) The Kansas department of wildlife and parks shall establish separate accounts of the state agricultural production fund for each state-owned property under the control and jurisdiction of the secretary of wildlife and parks. Such accounts shall be used for **habitat management** costs and expenses associated with the management ~~practices as determined for each property~~ *of all state-owned properties.*”