

# **MARY POWELL**

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February 11, 2024

RE: Senate Bill 370

Kansas Senate

Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Dear Honorable Senators;

I am of the land, an agriculturalist who tries to make a living off the land raising meat goats and providing natural land management with the goats. I live on the land, sleeping on the ground most of the spring, summer and fall, watching the amazing Kansas sunrises and sunsets, bearing with weather under a tarp on the hottest of days and enduring the storms that roll across the prairie. There is nothing more sacred to me than the Land of Kansas, and its People who produce food that feeds the world. We are the People most affected when National Heritage Areas (NHA), Trails and programs such as Executive Order #14008 (30x30) or Make America Beautiful) are forced upon the land. We are the ones who are stifled when Federal Programs are imposed upon the State without a say in what can and cannot be done on our own land due to vague language of a program that is interpreted by non-government organizations in which the People and State of Kansas have no control over. We not only pay for it through our taxes but also with limitations force upon our land that is not even part of but next to NHA's.

I believe that the Federal government doesn't care about the negative impacts National Heritage Areas, Trails and similar programs have on the People of Kansas and as always, they don't care whose tax dollars they spend to push an agenda that is not only wasteful but also imposes upon the sovereignty of the State of Kansas. Only the People of Kansas should decide how our Kansas tax dollars should be spent and if approached by the Federal Government to set up any type of national land designation that the Kansas Legislature should make the decision on funding such things or not. I know that Senate Bill 370 will protect the People of Kansas and

those of us who work the land and are of the land. I ask that you agree that this bill will greatly protect the People of Kansas and save wasteful tax dollar spending.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Powell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Mary Powell