



To: House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, Rep. Ken Rahjes, Chair

From: Alfonso Leyva – Board President, Kansas Wildlife Federation

Date: January 22nd, 2024

RE: HB 2541 – Establishing a state conservation fund

Chairman Rahjes and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2541. The Kansas Wildlife Federation (KWF) is a nearly 75-year-old organization that has been advocating for good conservation policy since 1950. We are members of the Kansans for Conservation coalition which has led the collaborative drafting process of HB 2541.

Conservation is the proper management of our natural resources and there are few investments more critical to the quality of life in Kansas. Our economic success, public health, and future generations are dependent upon us maintaining and improving these resources. Currently, the state does not provide the proper funding for this work and is subsequently losing out on federal or private matching dollars to the 35 states that have already established dedicated conservation funding, including all four of our neighbors.

The Kansas Wildlife Federation promotes hunting and fishing opportunities and associated recreation for the benefit of all hunters, anglers and conservationists. KWF supports the sustainable use and management of fish and wildlife and their habitats through education, partnerships, outreach, and policy oversight. Funds associated with this bill are supportive of most or all of the activities that KWF has been supportive of in Kansas conservation since the advent of the organization.

As outlined above and by our fellow coalition members, the establishment of state conservation funding benefits all Kansans, allows for the proper stewardship of the resources bestowed upon us, and enables the state to be competitive for match opportunities. Therefore, we ask you to support HB 2541.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alfonso Leyva".

Alfonso Leyva – Board President, Kansas Wildlife Federation

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<https://kansaswildlifefederation.org/>