

# THE CONSERVATION FUND

**TO:** House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Representative Ken Rahjes, Chair

**FROM:** Ginny Moore, Kansas State Director  
The Conservation Fund

**DATE:** January 22, 2024

**RE:** HB 2541 - Establishing a state conservation fund

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The Conservation Fund respectfully submits this written testimony in support of HB 2541, a bill to establish a state conservation fund for Kansas. We are members of the Kansans for Conservation coalition which has led the collaborative drafting process of HB 2541.

At The Conservation Fund, we practice conservation to achieve both natural resource protection and economic vitality, assuring that the value of America's natural resources remains essential to our prosperity. Nowhere is this dual approach to conservation – natural resource protection and economic prosperity – more necessary than in Kansas. Driven by its agricultural roots, our State's economic success, public health and quality of life are dependent upon us protecting the soil and water resources upon which our agricultural economy relies.

The establishment of a state conservation fund would significantly increase our State's ability to secure long-term protection of soil and water resources in Kansas. These funds could also be used to expand tourism and improve Kansans' health and quality of life by providing resources for a myriad of recreational amenities like city and county parks, hiking and biking trails, hunting and fishing options and the chance for all Kansans to enjoy the beauty and tranquility that nature offers.

Currently 35 states, including all four of our neighboring states, have established dedicated conservation funding, allowing them to tap into private or federal dollars that require a state match. Let's not lose out to them. For the reasons stated above, we ask for your support of HB 2541.

Please feel free to contact me at the email or phone number below.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

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