



February 9, 2024

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Senator Virgil Peck, Chair

Re: SB 417 AN ACT repealing K.S.A. 32-840; removing the secretary of wildlife and park's authority to exercise the right of eminent domain.

Position: Proponent

The Kansas Cattleman's Association (KCA) formed in 1998 serves USA agriculture and independent beef producers since 1998. The Kansas Cattlemen's Association is committed to restoring profits, self-esteem, freedom, fair trade, trust, and community pride back to the farms, ranches and rural communities across Kansas and the nation.

The Kansas Cattlemen's Association (KCA) and its members support Senate Bill 417 and its revocation of the secretary of wildlife and parks authority to exercise the right of eminent domain as prescribed in K.S.A 32-840.

A significant foundational strength of our State and Country is property rights and land ownership. This has led to the growth and success of agriculture and providing security through food and agriculture production.

Private property rights and protection of landowner's rights are supported by the membership of KCA. The use of eminent domain by an unelected administrative division of the government regardless of the need falls outside the intent of this legal mechanism. KCA believes that this bill takes positive steps in securing the property rights of landowners, tenants, and the general public by revoking eminent domain authority of the secretary of wildlife and parks.

The Kansas Cattlemen's Association and its members support SB 417 and its repeal of K.S.A 32-840.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Steele", is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

Matthew T. Steele, Ph.D, P.E.
Kansas Cattlemen's Association
Executive Director