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Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
SB 370

Proponent
Written only

Chairman Thompson and Committee Members,

I am a proponent on SB 370. I thank you for taking the time to discuss and act on this bill. I feel it is an important step to keep Kansas in the ownership of Kansans.

The property rights of the state and individuals of Kansas need to be protected. Kansas has so much to offer with rich land and safe spaces. I am increasingly alarmed at the degree of federal guidelines that limit rights of farming and ownership. The nationalization of private and state lands has slowly squeezed our steady rural populations out of home and farm. The cities are expanding and “density” is the new buzz word that cities boast is for the greater good.

Who will feed these city dwellers when the farming communities are either national lands or subject to the restrictions of being in proximity to them?

Please consider the history of these lands already in our state. Were they beneficial to all involved? Was there transparency and honesty in how these lands were acquired? Was there full disclosure of what rights were given up in perpetuity?

National heritage areas and national historic trails designations should not be extended into state or privately owned land without the approval of the legislature of the state of Kansas. Funding and land should not be extended without legislative approval.

Our legislature is accountable to the voters of Kansas. National administration of Kansas land is not accountable to people of Kansas.

Please pass SB 370 favorably out of committee.

Thank you,

Sheila Sumpter