

January 27, 2018

Re: Senate Ag and Natural Resources Committee
SB 331
State Park Bill - 18rs2700
Designation of Little Jerusalem Badlands State Park

I am writing a letter of support for Senate Bill 331 for the designation of Little Jerusalem Badlands State Park. My husband and I are 4th generation farmers and ranchers in Logan county. As stewards of the land farming over 15,000 acres, we value our rural lifestyle, the abundant wildlife and advocating for conservation. I am excited that the Nature Conservancy has purchased this amazing land with the unique chalk formations only found in the west part of the state. The state of Kansas has a rare opportunity to have another state park featuring this private property.

I was involved with development of the Western Vistas Historic Byway and the writing of the Corridor Management Plan, which includes the Little Jerusalem site. I am the Treasurer of the Buffalo Bill Cultural Center, a regional visitors center promoting the Byway sites, the history of this area and tourism opportunities throughout the state. I am the Treasurer of the Kansas Governor's Ringneck Classic Northwest KS Conservation Foundation. In addition, I serve as a member of the Logan County Community Foundation with contributions from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation. As a committed and involved individual, I fully encourage the state's participation to maintain, preserve and promote this pristine land. As a Kansas state park, it truly will allow individuals to have an experience and interaction with nature and be a gift to share with our children and future generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raelene Keller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Raelene Keller
3318 US 40
Oakley, KS 67748