

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TOPEKA

KYLE D. HOFFMAN
DISTRICT 116

February 17, 2020

Chairman Highland and members of the House Agriculture Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to come before you in support of HB2669. I believe that as good stewards, it is our responsibility to care for and leave our environment in good order for the generations to come; that includes when we can, safe guarding our wildlife.

The Federal Endangered Species Act was created in 1973 and has been the guiding legislation since then that the Federal Government and State Governments have used to safeguard threatened and endangered species through the years. Sometime after 1973, Kansas developed a mechanism to abide by the Act and develop our own list. We know how this works, over the years, statues and rules and regulations have come and gone, until we have the situation today that I hope HB2669 will remedy.

Although the Act is important, it must be balanced with humanity and our need to progress, which has always been the struggle. I introduced HB2669 because I felt that somewhere along the way, the balance has gotten out of balance. Currently, it is my understanding, that Kansas has 46 animals on the Threatened and Endangered list, while the Federal list only contains 14. In some cases, Kansas has animals listed as endangered, while the Feds only list them as threatened. This impacts, individuals, companies, cities, counties, and the State of Kansas. These impacts can be anywhere from increased fees, project delays, all the way to not even allowing a project to go forward.

My intention of HB2669 is to bring our Kansas list in line with the Federal list. I do not see a reason to cause our Kansas citizens more expense, time, and frustration, by having a more extensive list than the Federal Government. HB2669 retains most of the power and procedures currently in law, it only requires that in order for a species to be listed in Kansas it must also be on the Federal list.

I shared this with KWPT before the final bill was turned in and tried to implement their concerns. Thank you for your time and consideration and I stand for questions at the appropriate time.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kyle Hoffman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kyle Hoffman
State Representative
District #116