

**Testimony in Support of HB 2597
An Act Providing for four distinct license plates
Before
The House Committee on Transportation**

**By Brad Loveless, Secretary
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks**

February 10, 2022

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks supports House Bill 2479 and would like to thank Representative Blex and the Revisor's Office for all they have done to bring forth this legislation. They assisted in the drafting process and took great effort to make sure HB 2479 was as similar as possible to other distinctive license plate bills this committee has seen, despite the marked differences from regular license plate bills addressed below.

HB 2479 would allow KDWP to create four distinct license plates to sell to the public; one promoting the parks system; one promoting fishing; one promoting hunting; and one promoting non-game species. Kansas is the only state in the country not to issue a distinctive plate to benefit its conservation agency. However, it will be one of the few states where such a plate would provide the purchaser the benefit of utilizing the Parks system.

Each plate issued would allow the purchaser to utilize the state Parks system by issuing them a park passport. An amount equal to the existing park passport fee would be transferred to the park fee fund from the donation price of each plate sold in order to keep current Parks funding consistent. If a Parks plate is issued, the remaining amount would also be deposited in the park fee fund. If a fishing, hunting or non-game species plate is issued, the remaining amount would be deposited in the wildlife fee fund.

KDWP would continue to track the monies generated from the fishing, hunting and non-game species plates by creating sub-accounts within the wildlife fee fund. This will allow the KDWP to accurately inform the Legislature how much revenue generated was associated with each plate, and our staff would be able to utilize those funds, with the Legislature's budgetary approval, to benefit the respective conservation effort.

KDWP staff has attempted to calculate how much revenue HB 2479 would generate. There is no way to accurately predict how many plates would be generated. Our best guess, if Utah's experience could be applied broadly to Kansas, would be approximately \$140,625.00 the first year. This itself will be dependent on how well KDWP advertises the plates.