

December 7, 2021

Special Committee on the Federal 30x30 Initiative
Room 582 – N – Statehouse
300 SW 10th Ave
Topeka, KS 66612-1504

RE: 30x30 Initiative

To Whom It May Concern:

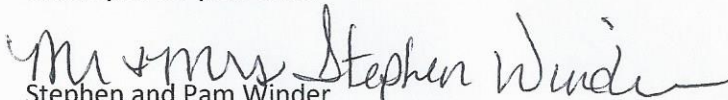
My name is Stephen Winder. I am a land owner in Osborne County, Kansas. My farm was passed down to me from my father. I was raised there and have worked the farm just as my father did before me. It is my home and one that I will pass on to my kids, grandkids and great grandkids.

We have paid and worked hard to make our property the best that it can be. We have regulations from the USDA that have to be complied with if we are to receive any governmental payments. We have put in terraces and waterways to help conserve water and soil. We maintain the pasture ground to keep our cattle running. We have neighbors that put their ground into CRP. They have had additional requirements put on them to do that in order to receive their CRP payments. Those regulations by the USDA are all we should have comply with. But as farmers, we do go further to preserve our land.

The farmers and ranchers of Kansas are probably the best conservationists there are. We have to be able to work the land yet make sure we are conserving the necessary nutrients and water to keep crops growing. Same with the pasture ground. We have to rotate cattle out to other pasture ground in order to give the grass a break to keep it coming back year after year. We have to make sure we are keeping invasive weeds under control so that they don't take over our pasture or farm ground. It requires a lot of time and effort, but we do it because we enjoy being part of the land. We are a lot better at judging what needs to be done than some governmental agency or special interest group that has no idea how we work.

We are very opposed to any heritage way coming in and we are strongly opposed to the 30x30 initiative. As legislators, it is your ethical responsibility to protect the private property rights of the Kansas private property landowners. We do not need anybody coming in and telling us how to conserve our land. Its been done for years and years by the current land owners.

Thank you for your time.


Stephen and Pam Winder
Garden City KS 67846