

## COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

BILL NUMBER: **HB2541**\_\_\_\_\_

**Support X**\_\_\_\_\_ Oppose \_\_\_\_\_ Neutral \_\_\_\_\_ Testimony Will Be: In Person Oral \_\_\_\_\_  
Webex Oral \_\_\_\_\_ **Written Only X**\_\_\_\_\_ For Meeting on **Monday, Jan. 22**

Testimony By: **Clark H. Coan** (Name of person testifying)

On Behalf Of: **Self**\_\_\_\_\_ (Association, Corporation, Individual)

Email Address: **clarkcoan@yahoo.com** Telephone: **785-842-3458**

Dear Representative:

HB 2541 would help protect and enhance our common heritage: our agricultural lands, natural lands and recreational resources. It would provide a permanent and protected funding source for conserving and enhancing water quality and natural areas including parks, trails, fish and wildlife habitat, and agricultural soils. Most states have these funds. Dedicated statewide funding for conservation would allow Kansas to leverage significantly more funding for recreation, agriculture, land, and water.

The bill would allocate 50% of sales and compensating use taxes on sporting goods to a State Conservation Fund which would be divided among three sub-funds:

Funds under the **Working Lands Conservation Fund** could be used for (1) long-term land protection from conversion or loss of habitat; (2) practices that promote or regenerate soil ecosystems, biodiversity and native grasslands; and, (3) ecological restoration of lands.

Funds under the **Kansas Outdoors Fund** could be used for (1) Increasing access to and numbers of natural areas for nature appreciation, camping, hiking, trail use, boating, kayaking, canoeing and other outdoor recreational pursuits; (2) engaging in long-term land protection from conversion or loss of habitat; and, (3) improving local, county and state recreation facilities and parks.

Funds under the **Wildlife Conservation Fund** could be used (1) engaging in long-term land protection from conversion or loss of habitat (i.e. conservation easements; (2) restoring habitat for threatened or endangered species or those species in need of conservation; and, (3) conserving or restoring native landscapes, such as forests, grasslands or state wetlands and streams.

The bill has bipartisan support and wide support from conservation, agricultural and recreational organizations. Please vote for HB 2541. Thank you for paying attention to my comments.

Sincerely yours,

*Clark H Coan*

Clark H. Coan