

To: House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, Rep. Ken Rahjes, Chair

From: William F Bradley Jr., President, FarmTender, LLC

Date: January 22nd, 2024

RE: HB 2541 – Establishing a state conservation fund

Chairman Rahjes and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2541. FarmTender, LLC is a small company which has developed an online website to match regenerative farmers and ranchers with landowners who want them. We are members of the Kansans for Conservation coalition which has led the collaborative drafting process of HB 2541.

Conservation is the proper management of our natural resources and there are few investments more critical to the quality of life in Kansas than investments in conservation. Our state's economic success, our residents' recreation and public health, and the success of our future generations are dependent upon us maintaining and improving these resources. Currently, the state does not provide the proper funding for this work and is subsequently losing out on federal or private matching dollars to the 35 states that have already established dedicated conservation funding, including all four of our neighbors.

Our company's reason for existence is to facilitate practices which will help restore the soil ecosystem, prevent nutrient runoff and erosion, sequester carbon in the soil, and increase farming profits. Our website may be found at www.FarmTender.us. The provisions of HB 2541 directly address our concerns for natural resource conservation and improved farming and ranching practices.

As outlined above and by our fellow coalition members, the establishment of state conservation funding benefits all Kansans, allows for the proper stewardship of the resources bestowed upon us, and enables the state to be competitive for match opportunities. Therefore, we ask you to support HB 2541.

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