



Robin Jennison, Acting Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Parks

Sam Brownback, Governor

February 17, 2011

Representative Sharon Schwartz, Chairperson
House Budget Committee for Agriculture and Natural Resources
Room 142-S, State Capitol Building
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Chairperson Schwartz:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the provisions of House Bill No. 2149. The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) has been for a number of years acquiring property for use by the public to pursue outdoor recreation activities. I would comment to the Committee that the amount of land acquisition in my administration will be reduced. I have testified to the Senate Ways and Means Sub-Committee on Capital Improvements and the Joint Committee on State Building Construction requesting that the FY 2012 Governors recommendation for land acquisition be amended to direct the majority of the funds to other uses.

The provisions of House Bill No. 2149 amend existing state (KSA 32-833) to reduce the amount of land that KDWP can purchase without legislative approval from 640 acres to 160 acres. In addition, the bill would delete a provision that exempts KDWP from obtaining legislative approval if the acquisition is from a private individual at less than the appraised value for the land.

The KDWP does not object to the intent of HB 2149. However, I do have a concern that the provisions of the bill do not allow the Department to address situations that may occur in which it would be to the benefit of the State to acquire property in a timely manner which would not allow for Legislative approval during the regular session. I would request that the Committee amend the bill to allow the State Finance Council to approve land acquisitions during the times the Legislature is not in Session. Your consideration of this request would be appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robin Jennison".

Robin Jennison, Acting Secretary of Wildlife and Parks
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

House Agriculture & Natural
Resources Budget Committee
Date 2-17-2011
Attachment 5