

MINUTES OF THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Robert Tyson at 8:30 a.m. on March 22, 2001 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: all present

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department  
Jill Wolters, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Judy Krase, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

John Strickler, private citizen, Manhattan Kansas  
Richard Jones, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD)  
Leslie Kaufman, Associate Director, Public Policy Division, Kansas Farm Bureau  
Tracy Streeter, State Conservation Commission  
Ron Klataske, Audubon of Kansas

Others attending: See attached list

Senator Lee moved that the minutes from the March 15, 16 and 19 meetings be approved, seconded by Senator Umbarger. The motion passed.

Senator Tyson asked the Committee to work **HB 2198**, concerning the Kansas water pollution control revolving fund. Staff of Legislative Research reviewed the bill.

Senator Lee moved that **HB 2198** be passed favorably, seconded by Senator Taddiken. The motion carried.

Senator Tyson opened the hearing on **HB 2471**. Staff of Legislative Research explained the bill. Raney Gilliland said that the bill would create the Kansas Natural Resource Legacy Alliance. He also said the charge under the bill for the Alliance would be to develop a vision for the state's natural resources that would assure economic development, natural resource protection, opportunities for natural resource and environmental education, and a healthy environment and quality of life for Kansans.

The first conferee and proponent of **HB 2471** was John Strickler from Manhattan, Kansas. Mr. Strickler said the Alliance created by **HB 2471** would be an attempt to take a pro-active look at these areas and develop a long range plan to identify and address future environmental and natural resource priorities and needs (Attachment 1).

The second conferee and proponent was Richard Jones, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts. He said the Alliance would provide conservation districts a better opportunity set priorities at the local level that fit into a state long range plan, direct local natural resource programs to meet the objectives identified in a long range plan, and inform and educate local citizens on the importance of protecting local resources (Attachment 2).

The third conferee and proponent of **HB 2471** was Leslie Kaufman, Kansas Farm Bureau (Attachment 3).

The fourth conferee and proponent of the bill was Tracy Streeter, State Conservation Commission. Mr. Streeter said this bill represents an unprecedented effort and opportunity to draw on the collective wisdom and vision of the Governor, the Kansas legislature, state agencies, private organizations and private individuals to build the foundation for future natural resource management in Kansas. (Attachment 4). Questions and discussion followed.

Senator Tyson noted that in the bill the landowner was not addressed as being part of the group that would be on the Legacy Alliance.

The fifth conferee and proponent was Ron Klataske, Audubon of Kansas. Mr. Klataske said the Alliance would help to build partnerships between rural and urban constituencies and they are committed to that approach (Attachment 5).

Written testimony was submitted by Alan Pollom, State Director, Kansas Chapter of the Nature Conservancy (Attachment 6), Terry DeWeese, Kansas Recreation and Park Association (Attachment 7), Barth Crouch, Pheasants Forever Inc. (Attachment 8), and Jim Wallace, Kansas Land Improvement Contractors Association (Attachment 9).

Committee discussion occurred regarding the makeup of the Alliance, and there was interest in reconfiguring the Alliance to reflect landowner concerns. Also, concerns were expressed on whether the Alliance needed to be dictated by law or whether it could be organized in the private sector.

Senator Tyson closed the hearing on **HB 2471**.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30.

**SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
GUEST LIST**

DATE: 3-22-2001

NAME	REPRESENTING
Rod Gushin	KRONE - BOW - MPS.
Don Ryan	KACD
Wayne Lukert	SHAWNEE CO. CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Richard G. Jones	KACD Salina
LAURA KELLY	KS RECREATION + PARK ASSN.
STEVE WILLIAMS	KDWP
JOHN STRICKLER	MYSELF
Rebecca Reed	KS Dept of Agriculture
Bob McDonnell	KWO
Terry Deweese	Kansas Recreation and Park Association
Clint Riley	KDWP
Leslie Kaufman	Ks Farm Bureau
Doug Smith	Pinegar-Smith Company
Tracy Street	CONS Comm,
Ray Astin	KANSAS Forest Service
Steve Adams	KDWP
Joe Hunt	KDWP
Debra Cole	Sen. Japan Office Staff



**JOHN K. STRICKLER**  
**1523 University Drive**  
**Manhattan, KS 66502-3447**  
**Phone: 785/565-9731**  
**Fax: 785/532-3305**  
[jstrickl@oznet.ksu.edu](mailto:jstrickl@oznet.ksu.edu)

March 22, 2001

TO: Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Senator Robert Tyson, Chair

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 2471, Kansas Natural Resource Legacy Alliance

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for House Bill No. 2471. I am not representing any specific organization, but I have been involved with a working group of organizations involved in development of the Kansas Natural Resource Legacy Alliance proposal. I have spent 44 years of my life working in the natural resources field—mostly as a forester. Forty of those years have been in Kansas. I have worked for the Kansas Forest Service, as well as serving as Acting Secretary of Wildlife and Parks for both Governor Hayden and Governor Graves, and spent two years as Special Assistant for Environment and Natural Resources to Governor Hayden. In those capacities, I have become familiar with most of the state programs and issues related to natural resources and the environment.

Kansas is a diverse state with an abundance of prime agricultural lands and other natural resources. Much of our economic base is built on those natural resources. Protection and wise management of these natural resources are essential for maintaining and growing the Kansas economy in a manner that meets present resource needs while assuring an economic standard, healthy environment and quality of life for future generations. Without adequate attention paid to our environment and to our water, soil and other natural resources, sustainable economic development will be difficult to achieve. More and more in the competitive economic development arena, you hear references to “Quality of Life” as a major selling point. Our wildlife and park resources contribute significantly to our quality of life. Without a clean, adequate supply of water, what are the chances of attracting new businesses or expanding established businesses against the competition? What is the future of agriculture without adequate protection of our water and soil resources? Cities are facing increased costs of water treatment for use and treatment of wastewater after use. There are growing concerns about nonpoint source pollution from runoff from our farms and cities, and the burden that land treatment will place on individual landowners to install needed best management practices. At the same time, there is growing concern about the impact of burdensome environmental regulations on the landowners and businesses. Issues such as the current ones related to depletion of the High Plains Aquifer, costs and availability of energy, and water quality regulations all point to the need for long term planning related to our environment and natural resources.

The Alliance created by HB 2471 will be an attempt to take a pro-active look at these areas and develop a long-range plan to identify and address future environmental and natural resource priorities and needs. The Alliance will also be an opportunity to explore the options to develop and expand public/private partnerships to achieve the desired future within the context of balanced economic development, a healthy environment, and sustainable natural resources. I have been impressed with the diverse interests that have agreed on the need for this effort and are willing to support the creation of the Alliance. I respectfully urge your s

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Attachment # 1

# SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

**RE: HB 2471 - Creates the "Kansas Natural Resource Legacy Alliance"**

**March 22, 2001  
Topeka, Kansas**

**Presented by:  
Richard G. Jones, Executive Director  
Kansas Association of Conservation Districts**

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**Chairman Tyson, and members of the Committee, my name is Richard Jones and I am here representing the 105 Conservation Districts of Kansas. We appreciate the opportunity to express our strong support for HB 2471. The bill proposes to create the "Kansas Natural Resource Legacy Alliance" charged with developing a vision and proposing recommendations for protecting and enhancing the state's natural resources.**

**A coalition was formed to develop a quality of life initiative related to natural resources, the environment and economic development and has been working for several months examining resource needs and programs. The coalition includes representatives from the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Chapter of the Nature Conservancy and Kansas Recreation and Parks Association. The coalition ask for the assistance in developing natural resource and program needs from state agencies of Kansas Department of Agriculture, State Conservation Commission, Kansas Water Office, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Kansas Forest Service and Kansas Department of Health and Environment. In addition to the original coalition members, other organizations were brought into the discussions, the Kansas Wildlife Federation, Kansas Livestock Association, Kansas Audubon Society, Pheasants Forever, and the Kansas Land Improvement Contractors Association.**

**HB 2471 proposes to establish a 13 member alliance appointed by the legislative leadership and the governor. We believe the provisions in Section 1 (d) requiring the officials making the appointments**

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Attachment # **2**

**to consult and coordinate in order to achieve a membership that represents a balance of knowledge and experience among various interests is vital to the success of the alliance.**

**The 105 Conservation Districts in Kansas are at work locally everyday protecting and improving our state's natural resources. They set goals and establish local priorities directed at improving resources at the local level. A "Kansas Natural Resource Legacy Alliance" with membership from interested individuals, natural resource, environmental, and industrial organizations and groups working together to develop a long range plan and policy for our state's natural resources will provide Conservation Districts a better opportunity to:**

**\*\* Set priorities at the local level that fit into a state long range plan**

**\*\* Direct local natural resource programs to meet the objectives identified in a long range plan**

**\*\* Inform and educate local citizens on the importance of protecting local resources.**

**We recommend the passage of HB 2471 creating a "Kansas Natural Resource Legacy Alliance" that will develop a long range vision for our state's natural resources.**



# PUBLIC POLICY STATEMENT

## SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

**RE: HB 2471 - Creates the "Kansas Natural Resource Legacy Alliance."**

**March 22, 2001  
Topeka, Kansas**

**Presented by:  
Leslie Kaufman, Associate Director  
Public Policy Division  
Kansas Farm Bureau**

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Chairman Tyson and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Farm Bureau certainly appreciates this opportunity to express strong support for HB 2471. The bill proposes to create the "Kansas Natural Resource Legacy Alliance" charged with developing a vision and proposing recommendations for protecting and enhancing the state's natural resources.

My name is Leslie Kaufman. I serve Kansas Farm Bureau as the Associate Director of the Public Policy Division.

A Working Group organized to develop a quality of life initiative related to natural resources, the environment and economic development was formed and has been working several months examining needs, programs and resources. The core group has consisted of representatives of private organizations (Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, Kansas Recreation and Parks Association) and state agencies (Kansas Department of Agriculture, State Conservation Commission, Kansas Water Office, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Kansas Forest Service and Kansas Department of Health and Environment). In addition to the core

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organizations were brought into the discussions (Kansas Wildlife Federation, Kansas Livestock Association, Kansas Audubon Society, Pheasants Forever and Kansas Land Improvement Contractors Association).

HB 2471 proposes to create a 13-member alliance appointed by the legislative leadership and the governor:

- Three members appointed by the President of the Senate;
- Two members appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;
- Three members appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- Two members appointed by the Minority Leader of the House; and
- Three members appointed by the Governor.

We believe the provision in Section 1(d) requiring the officials making the appointments to consult and coordinate in order to achieve a membership that represents a balance of knowledge and experience among various interests is vital to the success of the alliance. Those interests include:

- Natural resources;
- Environment;
- Economic development;
- Parks and recreation;
- Soil and water conservation;
- Travel and tourism,
- Outdoor recreation;
- Landowners and homeowners;
- Fish and wildlife;
- Forest resources; and
- Municipalities.

The farm and ranch members of Kansas Farm Bureau recognized the importance of involving all interests and addressing issues important to all Kansans when the members adopted the following policy:

*“A program that would provide additional support to protect and enhance natural resources should be a balance of rural and urban needs.”*

Section 2(a) of HB 2471 outlines the purpose and establishes the mission by directing the alliance to “Develop a vision for the state’s natural resources that will assure:



- Economic development;
- A healthy environment
- Protection of natural resources; and
- Quality of life for Kansas families and individual citizens”

HB 2471 outlines the process that will be used to develop the vision for the state’s natural resources:

- First meeting of the alliance will be called by the governor at which time a chairperson and vice-chairperson shall be elected;
- Conduct public hearings across the state to seek citizen input and provide information to the public;
- Seek input from state and local governmental agencies;
- Examine the state’s current natural resource and environment programs;
- Consider the impact of the state’s natural resources and programs on economic development;
- Examine the state’s current and future resource needs;
- Expand public/private partnerships that support and implement the vision.
- Submit preliminary and final reports to the governor and legislature;

In addition to developing a vision and recommending programs, we anticipate the alliance will examine the current and future resource needs, both funding and staffing, that will be required. The farm and ranch members of Farm Bureau have developed and adopted extensive policy focusing on protecting the natural resources of the state (see attachment) and will be active participants in this important mission.

We respectfully recommend the approval of HB 2471 and ask that you advance the measure to the full Senate.

Thank you!

We encourage additional efforts to prevent contamination of ground water and surface water in Kansas. Success is dependent upon partnering and cooperation by government agencies at all levels, by and with organizations representing agriculture, business, homeowners, natural resource and environmental interests. All these entities must participate in order to increase public awareness and encourage appropriate action.

An increased focus and allocation of resources should be directed at developing crop and livestock management practices, which protect natural resources, the agricultural economy and the opportunity for continued use of crop and livestock protection products. Researchers, agencies and agricultural producers must all be involved in developing management practices, which are effective and widely utilized.

Since the protection of natural resources is vital to all Kansans, and important for future generations of Kansans, we support creating a dedicated source of funding, expanding cost-share programs, creating tax incentives and establishing a state revolving-loan fund for resource protection. A program that would provide additional support to protect and enhance natural resources should be a balance of rural and urban needs. There must be adequate funding to assist landowners with projects like implementing the new Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements, installing stream buffers, constructing livestock waste management facilities, developing crop and livestock best management practices, treating highly erodible lands, plugging abandoned wells and upgrading rural septic systems.

The funding plan must prohibit any governmental entity from using the new revenues to purchase private farm and ranch lands.

**Senate Committee on Natural Resources**

March 22, 2001

**Testimony on House Bill No. 2471**

Tracy Streeter, Executive Director  
State Conservation Commission

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the committee to discuss HB 2471, an act that establishes a Kansas Natural Resource Legacy Alliance to develop a vision for the state's natural resources.

On behalf of the six state agencies (Department of Health and Environment, Department of Agriculture, Kansas Water Office, Kansas Forest Service, State Conservation Commission and Department of Wildlife and Parks) that have worked with private partners to develop the concept and draft this bill, I want to applaud this committee for considering, and indicate our strong support for, HB 2471. This bill represents an unprecedented effort and opportunity to draw on the collective wisdom and vision of the Governor, the Kansas legislature, state agencies, private organizations, and private individuals to build the foundation for future natural resource management in Kansas.

In spite of the cloud of disagreement and debate about environmental issues that currently confronts Kansas, HB 2471 promises to provide a forum for a comprehensive review of these issues and others with respect to economic development, health of our environment, and our quality of life. Most important, this effort will help ensure that future generations of Kansans enjoy the natural resources that have blessed past and present residents of this state.

The six state agencies mentioned previously, stand ready to assist in leaving a high quality, natural resource legacy for future generations. This is clearly our collective responsibility to Kansas and Kansans. We recommend and encourage your favorable consideration of HB 2471.



**Statement of Ron Klataske  
Executive Director, Audubon of Kansas, Inc.  
to the  
Kansas Senate,  
Committee on Natural Resources  
In Support of HOUSE BILL 2471**

My name is Ron Klataske. I live in Manhattan and serve as Executive Director of Audubon of Kansas, Inc. I am a native of Kansas and have been involved in wildlife conservation and farming/ranching most of my life.

I am here today on behalf of Audubon of Kansas. Audubon of Kansas represents 5,000 members of eleven chapters and our statewide organization in Kansas. We thank you for this opportunity. Audubon members, like most residents, enjoy the pastoral and natural landscapes of Kansas. Wildlife watching, hunting, fishing, and other forms of outdoor recreation and nature appreciation are of great importance to the quality of life of Kansans and to the State of Kansas.

The bill is very well written, and we appreciate the fact that it highlights the state's prairie and grassland resources, forest resources, parks and lakes, wetlands and riparian areas, fish and wildlife resources, soil and water conservation, and air quality. Collectively these resources are the foundation of a major segment of the Kansas economy, and our way of life. Ranchers throughout the state take pride in native rangelands, and farmers strive to protect soil resources. We all have a stake in and must invest in stewardship and conservation.

The economies of communities throughout the state benefit from the natural resources that are described in and the subject of House Bill 2471. The state will benefit more in the future as we draw attention to these resources and the opportunities to enjoy them. We hope that outdoor recreation will increasingly help to diversify opportunities for landowners, and communities.

We have observed the successes of other states, including the Design for Conservation program, and the combined initiative to provide soil conservation assistance to landowners and financial stewardship of state parks in Missouri. Many of these programs started with collaborative planning efforts similar to that envisioned with creation of the Kansas Natural Resource Legacy Alliance.

The Alliance will also help to build partnerships between rural and urban constituencies. We are committed to that approach. It is notable that support for this legislation includes the Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, Pheasants Forever, Audubon of Kansas and many other diverse organizations. Similar benefits will result from the joint participation of the six state agencies who are a part of this planning initiative.

We can achieve much more by working together. We have done that by jointly supporting such things as cost-share programs for buffer initiatives, and successfully urging USDA to allow grassed terraces as a continuous CRP practice. Programs of that nature benefit wildlife, enhance recreational opportunities (hunting, etc.), and assist landowners in conservation of soil and improvement of water quality.

We urge the Natural Resources committee and the Kansas Senate to approve

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We thank you for this consideration.

Attachment # 5

**TO: Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Senator Robert Tyson, Chair**

**FROM: Alan Pollom, State Director, Kansas Chapter of The Nature Conservancy**

**SUBJ: House Bill No. 2471, Kansas Natural Resource Legacy Alliance**

**DATE: March 22, 2001**

**On behalf of the Kansas Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, I would like to express our support for passage of House Bill 2471.**

**The Nature Conservancy's mission is to protect the lands and waters necessary for the survival and preservation of plants, animals, and natural communities representing the diversity of life on earth. The Conservancy is the world's largest private conservation organization with over 1 million members and chapters in all 50 states. To date, the Conservancy and its members have been responsible for the protection of more than 12 million acres in the United States and over 80 million acres world wide in partnership with other conservation groups. In addition, the Conservancy owns and maintains more than 1,300 preserves—the largest system of private nature sanctuaries in the world. The Nature Conservancy raises private-side funding and counts 400 of the Fortune 500 Companies as among its contributors.**

**The Conservancy operates through its partnerships with the business community and individuals that share an interest in the long-term management and protection of our natural resources for future generations within the context of sustainable economic development. We believe the Alliance created in HB 2471 is an opportunity to develop a vision for the state's natural resources as they affect the future environment and quality of life for Kansas' families and individual citizens. From this study, the Alliance can assist the state in development of a long-range plan to identify and address natural resource priorities and needs to assure that future generations will have a healthy and lasting environment within the framework of a sustainable economy.**

**For these reasons, the Kansas Chapter of The Nature Conservancy urges your support of HB 2471. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.**

Senate Natural Resources Committee  
Date 3-22-01

Attachment # 6



# KRPA

KANSAS RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION

HB 2471

Testimony presented to the  
Senate Natural Resource Committee  
March 22, 2001

Terry DeWeese, Co-Chair  
Kansas Recreation and Park Association  
Public Policy Committee

I am Terry DeWeese, Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Manhattan. I am providing written testimony on behalf of the Kansas Recreation and Park Association, representing 900 professionals and citizen advocates from communities, large and small, urban and rural, all across the state.

The Kansas Recreation and Park Association has been involved with a Working Group made up of private organizations and state agencies to develop a quality of life initiative related to natural resources, the environment and economic development that was formed to examine the needs, programs and resources across the State of Kansas. House Bill 2471 requests that the Kansas Natural Resource Legacy Alliance made up of 13 voting members and 6 ex-officio members be created. HB2471 passed in the House of Representatives 93/31.

As detailed in HB 2471, the Kansas Natural Resource Legacy Alliance will establish goals and priorities in the various natural resource and environment areas that will help develop a vision for the State's natural resources that will assure an economic standard, healthy environment and quality of life for Kansas families and citizens in the future. This bill ensures a thoughtful process with opportunities and expectations of involvement and cooperation from state and local governments, the business community and private citizens.

The Kansas Recreation and Park Association, with its statewide resources, looks forward to being an integral participant in this process and strongly encourage your support for HB 2471.

700 SW JACKSON ST . STE 805  
785.235.6533 PH



TOPEKA . KANSAS  
785.235.6655

Senate Natural Resources Committee  
Date 3-22-01

Attachment # 7

INFO@KRPANET.ORG



Senate Natural Resource Committee  
Senator Robert Tyson, Chairman

Dear Senator Tyson;

On behalf of the 28 chapters and over 3,000 members of Pheasants Forever in Kansas, I would like to take this opportunity to express our support for HB 2471, the Kansas Natural resource Legacy Alliance. We would hope that your committee would take the time in your very busy schedule to pass this bill favorably out of your committee. It will help ensure that the people of Kansas get a chance to thoroughly examine what the future of natural resources in Kansas should be. It isn't often that as many differing state agencies, private organizations and ordinary citizens agree on a course of action as have on this approach to the future of natural resources in our state.

Thank you and your committee for your holding this hearing on HB 2471.

Sincerely,

Barth Crouch  
Regional Wildlife Biologist  
Pheasants Forever Inc.  
205 S Santa Fe  
Salina, KS 67401  
785-823-0240

Senate Natural Resources Committee  
Date 3-22-01

Attachment # 8



# Kansas Land Improvement Contractors Association

2307 Northwood Lane • Salina, Kansas 67401-3656

785-827-5590 • Fax: 785-823-5628 • e-mail: klica@netscape.net

## OFFICERS

President  
James O'Toole  
952 West 57 Highway  
Girard, KS 66743-9219  
316-724-8536

President Elect  
Forest (AJ) Jones  
13156 S.W. 170<sup>th</sup>  
Rose Hill, KS 67133-9544  
316-776-2312

Vice President  
Robert Becker  
RR 2, Box 172  
Logan, KS 67646-9744  
785-689-4326

Treasurer  
Dirk Riniker  
P.O. Box 198  
Wamego, KS 66547-0198  
785-456-2455

Executive Director  
Jim R. Wallace  
2307 Northwood Lane  
Salina, KS 67401-3656

## DIRECTORS

Immediate Past Pres.  
Orval Juenean  
1974 All American RD  
Hanover, KS 66945-8849  
785-337-2482

District 1  
Troy Mindrup  
P.O. Box 333  
Lenora, KS 67645-0333  
785-567-4559

District 2  
Mike Loffin  
2203 Oak  
Hays, KS 67601-2841  
785-625-5108

District 3  
Robert Knitter  
1207 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Clay Center, KS 67432  
785-632-5778

District 4  
Lloyd Smelser  
24507 Dempsey Road  
McLouth, KS 66054-3023  
913-796-6741

District 5  
Gerald Stoppel  
P.O. Box 866  
Sublette, KS 67877-0866  
316-675-2653

District 6  
Julius Williams  
2103 Hart  
Dodge City, KS 67801  
316-225-6750

District 7  
Dale Berry  
214 S. Argonia Road  
Argonia, KS 67004  
316-435-6843

District 8  
Justin Sage  
RR 1, Box 735  
Madison, KS 66860  
316-437-2244

Watershed Director  
Kenneth Malm  
P.O. Box 269  
Lindsburg, KS 67456-0269  
785-227-3190

Associate President  
Scott Williams  
P.O. Box 1698  
Topeka, KS 66601-1215  
785-266-5770

March 22, 2001

TO: Kansas Senate  
Natural Resources Committee  
Senator Robert Tyson, Chairman

On behalf of the members of the Kansas Land Improvement Contractors Association I encourage your favorable support of the act creating the Kansas Natural Resources Legacy Alliance.

What can be more important to the "Great State of Kansas" than our looking forward to and planning for the future? We, as Kansans, have an abundance of natural resources that must be preserved, developed, and shared with our nation; we have the opportunity to do just that!

Individually, we have visions of what the State's natural resources offer; but we need a "broader vision" afforded by citizens, groups, and governmental agencies sharing expertise and ideas and working together to develop a plan for the future. Creating the Kansas Natural Resource Legacy Alliance offers the opportunity to evaluate Kansas' natural resources, establish goals, and establish priorities. A well thought out plan can attract tourism, provide quality life, and insure a future for natural resources that we enjoy and want to pass on to future generations.

The Kansas Land Improvement Contractors Association requests the Senate Natural Resources Committee's support of House Bill No. 2471, establishing the Kansas Natural Resources Legacy Alliance.

Sincerely,

Jim R. Wallace  
Executive Director

*Free Enterprise at Work*

Senate Natural Resources Committee  
Date 3-22-01

Attachment # 9