

September 26, 2023

Special Committee on the Foreign Adversary Investments and Land Purchases
The Honorable Mike Thompson, Chairman
Room 112-N, State Capitol Building
300 SW 10th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612-1504

Subject: *Written Testimony, of the Kansas Natural Resource Coalition to the Special Committee on Foreign Adversary Investments and Land Purchases*

Chairman Thompson and the Special Committee on Foreign Adversary Investments and Land Purchases:

My name is Tracey Barton, the current acting director of Kansas Natural Resource Coalition (KNRC). KNRC operates as an instrumentality of Kansas Boards County Commissioners, and our membership currently stands at thirty member counties.

KNRC is in full support of legislation which prohibits foreign adversarial investments in lands in Kansas. We are particularly concerned that our agricultural lands and associated industries are not acquired by foreign adversarial governments or corporations headquartered in those nations. It is critical for Kansas to defend our economic security, food security, and national security assets. According to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Chinese ownership of farmland in the United States multiplied by 20-fold from 2010 to 2020. In 2010, China owned \$81 million in assets of land in the United States, and in 2020, those holdings had increased to \$1.8 billion.

Another concern is the international climate policy agenda pushing net-zero carbon objectives which is causing harm to the United States economy, job loss, trade disadvantages, and increased energy and consumer costs. Because China and Russia enjoy exemptions under the Paris Accord timetables and objectives, the U.S. Nationally Determined Contribution¹ of 50-52% greenhouse gas reductions by 2030 pose significant geo-political disadvantages.

This agenda is pushing a whole of government, whole of economy transition away from fossil fuel development to “green” energy substitutes which have a poor *power density*.² A jointly written [white paper](#) by Level 10 Energy, The Nature Conservancy, and the

¹ [Microsoft Word - United States NDC April 21 2021 Final.docx \(unfccc.int\)](#)

² In comparing energy options, it is useful to calculate how much land is required for each energy technology and how much energy this can supply. This calculation is known as the **power density** and is defined as the energy generation rate per time per unit ground area (expressed as W/m²).

Steering Committee Members

Gary Hayzlett, President (Kearny) | Bob Rein, Vice President (Pawnee) | Marcus Rogge, Treasurer (Haskell)
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Audubon Society concede to the fact that “*In the U.S. alone, [it’s estimated](#) that in order to achieve net-zero GHG emissions by 2050, developers will need an area of land greater than that of Colorado and Wyoming combined to construct new renewable energy projects.*”

Simultaneously the Global Biodiversity Frameworks 30×30 initiative adopted by executive order in the Biden administration [EO 14008](#) is seeking the permanent conservation of 30% of lands and waters by 2030. The combination of lands needed for wind and solar development and this conservation initiative will remove other productive uses from a substantial amount of U.S. lands having significant impacts on the economic development and the wellbeing of the American citizen. This will devastate the United States environment with massive implications for property rights and reliable affordable energy as well as disruption and reduction of farming and grazing land used to supply food for our nation.

As evidenced by [other rules being promulgated by Department of Interior](#) agencies, this administration is picking winners and losers in the energy sectors as well as land leasing and permitting frameworks. These processes are resulting in vast transformative impacts on the national economy and political process with no cumulative accountability to the public and disregarded by federal departments of domestic procedural safeguards, while ceding the [National interests of the United States lands and waters to foreign influence](#) at the expense of the American tax payer.

We believe there is a need to strengthen the doctrine of local home rule and self-government. For instance, Secretarial Order 3388 which was rescinded by the Biden administration required written support from county and state governments before federal Land and Water Conservation Funds were expended in acquiring land, water, or an interest in land and water within a State and County. The specific language which was rescinded stated:

S.O. 3388 Sec. 4(b)(7) A written expression of support by both the affected Governor and local county or county government-equivalent (e.g. parish, borough) is required for the acquisition of land, water, or an interest in land or water under the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program.

In addition to our support for legislative prohibitions on the purchase of lands and infrastructure by foreign adversarial governments and companies, we recommend legislation codifying the language above requiring written expression of support by the Governor and local county officials before federal programs, such as the LWCF, acquire land, water, or interest in land or water within the state of Kansas and its political subdivisions.

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Kansas Natural Resource Coalition

Bringing Voice and Environmental Decision-making to Local Government

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracey Barton", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tracey Barton
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cc: KNRC Steering Committee
Sen. Jerry Moran
Sen. Roger Marshall
Rep. Tracey Mann

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