

Today's date: Feb 4, 2025

Bill: HB2063

Opponent Written only Testimony w graph

Conferee: Patricia DeDamos

Representing: Self

Hearing Date: Feb 6, 2025

Dear Chairman and Members,

I absolutely oppose this slush fund of HB2063 ! Directly from the bill:

"On July 1, 2025, and each July 1 thereafter, the director of accounts and reports shall transfer \$60,000,000 from the state general fund to the state conservation fund."

Fiscally responsibly legislature would not allow \$60 MILLION of tax payer dollars used like this. I hear we have a roads, schools and bridges that need fixing.

Kansas tax burden on the citizens is 12th highest in the nation. See graph - Read the whole report here: <https://www.cpapracticeadvisor.com/2024/12/01/how-the-50-states-rank-by-tax-burden/103495/>

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Overall Rank	State	Total Tax Burden (%)	Property Tax Burden (%)	Income Tax Burden (%)	Excise Tax Burden (%)
1	New York	12.02%	4.36% (5)	4.63% (2)	3.03% (3)
2	Hawaii	11.80%	2.64% (25)	3.82% (6)	5.34% (3)
3	Vermont	11.12%	4.85% (2)	3.09% (11)	3.18% (27)
4	Maine	10.74%	4.86% (1)	2.59% (21)	3.29% (24)
5	California	10.40%	2.73% (23)	4.87% (1)	2.80% (37)
6	Connecticut	10.08%	3.95% (6)	3.42% (9)	2.71% (40)
7	Minnesota	9.95%	2.82% (22)	4.01% (4)	3.12% (28)
8	Illinois	9.67%	3.67% (9)	2.57% (22)	3.43% (21)
9	New Jersey	9.47%	4.59% (3)	2.36% (30)	2.52% (44)
10	Rhode Island	9.38%	3.83% (7)	2.49% (24)	3.06% (30)
11	Utah	9.35%	2.19% (38)	3.57% (7)	3.59% (16)
12	Kansas	9.29%	3.04% (16)	2.67% (17)	3.58% (17)
13	Maryland	9.26%	2.60%	4.00%	2.66%

The backers of this bill will tell you Kansas needs more "conservation" - which almost always means land owners don't get to touch their own land. According to <https://moneymade.io/learn/article/best-states-for-farmland> Kansas is #2 for desirable farming land. Hundred and

thousands of acres are becoming UN farm-able with every industrial wind turbine, and thousand acer industrial solar installation.

Our farms and land are of more value when left in the hands of citizens- from the Money Made article above.

We weighed each of these factors equally, using the USDA's 2022 land values research and LawnStarter's 2021 Best States to Start a Farm study as resources, to develop this list of the ten best states for farmland. Let's dig in.

Montana

- **Cropland value per acre:** \$1,160
- **High season / low season:** May to September / October to April
- **Total farmland area:** 59.8 million acres (63% of total land)
- **Most valuable product:** Cattle

Coming in at the lowest cost per acre, Montana is one of the best states for farmland. If you're looking to buy more land with less money, Farmland investors higher ROI. When it comes to cultivating the land to add value, wheat and beef are some of Montana's biggest commodities, along with sheep and wool, so ranching is a popular option.

Kansas

#2

- **Cropland value per acre:** \$2,950
- **High season / Low season:** April to October / November to March
- **Total farmland area:** 46 million acres (88% of total land)
- **Most valuable product:** Cattle

Kansas is one of the most attractive places to invest in farmland thanks to its viability and well-developed rural infrastructure. It's the country's leader in grain production and one of the top producers of wheat as well. About 90% of the sunflower state's land is dedicated to farming.

Land in the most productive areas of Kansas won't come cheaply, but **farm income has been on the rise** in this state for the past couple of years, thanks to increases in grain prices. Cropland values, in particular, have jumped in recent years, so when it comes to the best states for farmland, this is one you want to get into sooner rather than later.

Oklahoma

- **Cropland value per acre:** \$2,250
- **High season / Low season:** April to September / October to March

If you want to review the USDA says about **the value of Kansas farm land** you can find that HERE: https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/Todays_Reports/reports/land0822.pdf

STOP BILL HB2063, keeping land OUT of conservation and IN CITIZENS hands, it will not cost any tax payer money.

Thank you, Patricia DeDamos