



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

From: Justin Cobb, Legislative Chair of Kansans for Conservation

Date: February 10th, 2025

RE: HB 2172 - Establishing the water program task force

Chairman Rahjes and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide **proponent** testimony on HB 2172. Kansans for Conservation is a diverse 41-member coalition representing natural resources stakeholders in sectors such as agriculture, recreation, wildlife, and more.

Kansans for Conservation supported increased funding to the state water plan in 2023 through Senate Substitute for HB 2302 as well as subsequent appropriations. Additionally, our coalition members have remained actively engaged in the implementation planning and local consult process led by the Kansas Water Authority. As such, we are in strong support of the goals for the water program task force proposed by HB 2172.

As a proposed task force member, Kansans for Conservation is also uniquely situated to provide input from multiple perspectives that are otherwise unlikely to be represented. While several of our agriculture members are currently proposed to be represented on the task force, the coalition would be able to serve as a voice for multiple recreation, wildlife, and conservation perspectives while maintaining a manageable number of task force members.

For these reasons, we request the committee to act favorably on HB 2172.

KANSASNS

for conservation

Agriculture

Nonprofit



Commercial

Wildlife

