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**Position Statement of the Central Plains Society of Mammalogists
on Kansas SB 269**

4 March 2015

The purpose of the Central Plains Society of Mammalogists (CPSM) is “to foster, encourage, and promote the study and conservation of mammals in the [Central Great Plains] Region.” Members of the CPSM are professional biologists who study mammals in the central Great Plains Region, representing the states of Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Oklahoma.

The CPSM opposes Kansas Senate Bill No. 269, which would set a troubling precedent for State legislators to assess wildlife species candidacy for listing under the Kansas Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act, rather than such assessments being logically done by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism in consultation with other biological experts in Kansas (as otherwise stated in the law and SB 269).

SB 269 prohibits the listing of a single wild mammal species, the eastern spotted skunk (*Spilogale putorius*), without regard to biology on the status of the species within Kansas. The Kansas Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act outlines a biologically sound process for the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism to assess statuses of wildlife species in Kansas in consultation with biological experts. The CPSM is opposed to singling out one species (the eastern spotted skunk) to be disallowed from such assessments as the animal is a component of the State’s natural heritage.

The CPSM strongly recommends that further action on this measure be halted.