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Rob Manes, Director

March 18, 2015

Senator Larry Powell
Members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee
Kansas State House
Topeka, Kansas 66618

Chairman Powell and Members of the Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony regarding Senate Bill 268, which would prevent the application of the KS Nongame and Endangered Species Act to stream maintenance and obstruction activities in Kansas. This bill would severely and unnecessarily undermine the application of sound science and responsible public policy in stream maintenance and obstruction activities, associated with rivers and streams of Kansas. Further, it sets an ill-advised precedent, which conflicts with cooperative management efforts now shared with several state agencies, insuring quality and quantity of critical fish and wildlife habitats, as well as, the water resources of the state. It is in the interest of critical common sense, and the well-being of Kansans, to remand such decisions to the best available science and scientific review, currently provided by the application of the KS Nongame and Endangered Species Act towards proposed maintenance and obstruction activities in Kansas rivers and streams.

The Nature Conservancy opposes Senate Bill 268, and I ask that you do so also. Thank you for considering these comments.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Manes", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rob Manes, Director
The Nature Conservancy of Kansas

C: Sec. Robin Jennison