



WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony of Randy Braddock, Hamilton County Commissioner
Before the Senate Natural Resources Committee
In Opposition to Senate Bill No. 330
January 19, 2016**

Member Counties

Barber

Barton

Clark

Cloud

Ellis

Finney

Ford

Gove

Grant

Gray

Hamilton

Harper

Haskell

Hodgeman

Kearny

Lane

Logan

Meade

Morton

Ness

Norton

Rawlins

Rice

Russell

Rush

Scott

Seward

Sheridan

Sherman

Stanton

Stevens

Thomas

Trego

Wallace

Wichita

Chairman Powell and Members of the Committee:

Kansas Legislative Policy Group (KLPG) would like to thank you for the opportunity provide written testimony today. KLPG is a non-partisan, non-profit organization comprised of elected commissioners representing the collective interests of 36 rural Kansas counties. We appreciate the opportunity to submit remarks in opposition of Senate Bill No. 330, as it is currently drafted.

Senate Bill No 330 seeks to establish in the Kansas Statutes the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and the necessary fund to administer the operation of the program through the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

KLPG has no issue with the codifying of the program in statutes, efforts to conserve our natural resources are an important priority. However, we are concerned that some of the current controls and limitations utilized by the program are not included in Senate Bill No. 330.

Absent these criteria in the new statute, criteria which address the conversion of land use over to CREP, negative and unplanned financial impacts to the valuations of counties can occur. We believe this to be an unintended consequence of the proposed legislation that can be easily remedied by including the proviso language from 2015 Senate Bill No. 112 which addressed and controlled program enrollment acreages.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present written testimony to the Committee. I encourage you to amend Senate Bill No. 330 with these clarifications.

Randy Braddock
President
Kansas Legislative Policy Group