

**Kansas Wildlife Federation  
Testimony Regarding Senate Bill 384  
to the Kansas Senate Committee on  
Natural Resources**

February 11, 2016

Chairman Powell and members of the Committee, we thank you for the opportunity to present our ongoing concerns regarding imperiled wildlife species conservation needs in Kansas.

The Kansas Wildlife Federation is a 66-year old grassroots organization of hunters, anglers and concerned wildlife conservationists that promotes hunting and fishing opportunities and associated recreation for the benefit of all hunters, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts. KWF supports the sustainable use and management of fish and wildlife and their habitats through education, partnerships, outreach, and policy oversight. We represent our members and the roughly 8,000 National Wildlife Federation members in Kansas.

KWF opposes Senate Bill 384, which will eviscerate the Kansas Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1975. KWF was involved in getting the nongame program passed in Kansas. SB 384 eliminates protection for the majority of the habitat types that threatened and endangered species require for existence in the state. SB 384 impacts mammals, fish, birds, invertebrates, amphibians and reptile species statewide.

Proponents of SB 384 contend the permits required under the Kansas Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1975 are onerous to and interfere with progress of businesses in the state. We contend that the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism has handled the permit process quite appropriately. From KDWP's records, the department has reviewed 10,976 publically funded or publically permitted projects statewide from 2011-2015. In those 5 years only 41 projects required some sort of mitigation, less than 9 per year. The vast majority of the projects were resolved satisfactorily with a minimum of actions acceptable to parties involved.

It is not only our members who oppose changes in the Kansas Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1975. A review of the 2011 survey commissioned by the KDWP and conducted by Responsive Management Inc. regarding *Kansas Residents' Opinions on Threatened and Endangered Wildlife and Actions to Protect Wildlife by Responsive Management* provides insight that should not be overlooked by this committee. The following statements are indicative of the opinions of a majority of Kansas residents surveyed:

"An overwhelming majority of Kansas residents (91%) agree that the Department should continue to identify and protect habitat critical to the existence of threatened and endangered wildlife."

“A majority of landowners would strongly or moderately support the reintroduction of a threatened and endangered wildlife species to its historical range if that range was near or adjacent to the landowner’s property: 66% would support.”

The Kansas Wildlife Federation strongly urges this committee not pass SB 2384 on to the entire Senate. It does not deserve your support.

Angela Anderson  
President  
Kansas Wildlife Federation