



KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
NEUTRAL TESTIMONY ON SB 425
FEBRUARY 18, 2016

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee,

KAC appears as a neutral conferee on SB 425 because we have member counties who both support and oppose the bill.

As written, SB 425 allows a board of county commissioners to regulate the granting of a conservation easement on property located within the county. Regulation of the easement is defined to mean adoption by resolution of a standard, requirement or other policy pertaining to the duration, type, process, procedure or category of property eligible for a conservation easement.

KAC notes that the legislation allows a county commission to regulate easements, which is generally a private land transaction. Involvement in private property transfers may involve the county in an individual's estate planning and tax planning, which could lead to potential litigation against the county.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on SB 425.

Melissa Wangemann, General Counsel