



Kansas Natural Resource Council

To: The Senate Natural Resources Committee
Senator Larry Powell, Chair
From: Kansas Natural Resource Council
Re: Opposition to Senate Bill No. 425

written only

Chairman Powell and Honorable Members of the Committee,

The Kansas Natural Resource Council (KNRC) opposes SB 425, a bill relating to conservation easements, because the bill removes a landowner's current right to protect his or her land for future generations and hands that right to county governments.

County commissions may not wish to possess such responsibility. County commissioners will be put in the untenable position of micromanaging the terms of an easement. With no standards or guidelines for governing easements at the county level, each county may establish its own arbitrary and capricious rules for instituting conservation easements. For land that may cross county boundaries, conflicting rules will put county governments at odds with each other.

SB 425 is yet another attempt to restrict a landowner's ability to protect land that he or she has cared for, and to pass that land on to future generations of Kansans – land that provides for wildlife, open space, healthy soil, and clean water. A conservation easement is the landowner's legacy, not the sitting county commission's legacy.

The Kansas Natural Resource Council is a 501 c (3) membership organization that promotes environmentally responsible practices and sustainable natural resource policies to ensure the quality and abundance of these resources for future generations of Kansans.

We urge you to reject SB 425.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Ashworth
Kansas Natural Resource Council