

> WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY: February 18, 2016
> Senate Natural Resources Committee

The following is what I would like to have included in the Testimony at the Senate Committee on Natural Resources meeting on Thursday, February 18th considering SB 425.

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> Living in the Flint Hills as we do, we have a special interest in protecting the rights of citizens to manage their own properties in ways that protect the natural beauty of the land and its agricultural heritage and to extend that protection beyond their own lives.

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> No one is forced to seek easements that protect the land. But the land trusts that have been developing as the need to protect the land has been recognized make that possibility a reality. It is not a simple endeavor and the County Commissions don't have sufficient access to the information on the varied factors involved in preservation decisions and thus are not the right place for that duty to rest. The state is and can carry out such duties well as it has been doing. By changing that method the ability to protect the great beauty of Kansas land will be essentially lost.

> We contend that SB 425 is wrongheaded and seems to us to intend stopping the development of easements that protect the land outright.

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> We hope you will vote against SB 425.

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> Sincerely,

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> Sue and Pete Cohen

> Alta Vista, Kansas, 66834