

Chairman Powell and Members of the Senate Natural Resource Committee,

My husband and I are adamantly opposed to SB 425 and strongly suggest that you vote against the bill. I believe the sponsors of this bill know full well that it is designed to make conservation easements worthless and therefore nonexistent, and that is their intention. To make conservation easements less than perpetual removes any monetary or long term conservation value. To allow the politics and frequent turnover of county commissioners to have any part in them would lead to incredible instability in both granting or overseeing the easements.

We have a perpetual conservation easement that was crafted for us and by us with our easement grantors over a period of 3 years. It allows for the preservation of our ranch as a PRODUCTIVE AGRICULTURAL RANCH for perpetuity. We hold all ownership rights, owning, selling, willing it to our heirs, leasing it, and managing it. The ONLY thing the easement covers is industrial or residential development so that the ranch land can stay a productive ranch. With so much agricultural land being developed in one manner or another, and with a growing world population to feed, it seems irresponsible not to put some protections on the land to preserve it for agricultural use.

Please put aside whatever scare tactics that are being perpetuated about conservation easements and vote with common sense to continue to allow good stewards of the land to preserve and maintain the integrity of their agricultural land.

Thank you,

Rose and Kent Bacon
RK Cattle Co.
1181 Four Mile Road
Council Grove, KS 66846

Ph. 620-767-7048