

EWEPHORIA FARM,
ELIZABETH AND GEORGE ULBRICK
1081 N. 900 RD. LAWRENCE, KS 66047
785 - 841 - 7175
ewephoriafarm@aol.com <http://www.ewephoria.net>

To: Kansas Senate Committee on Natural Resources.
Att'n: Sen. Powell and Members of the Committee

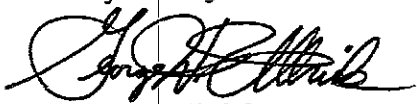
I genuinely appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to SB 425. As a rural Kansas landowner I cherish the ability for individuals, as provided by current statute, to permanently preserve areas of natural landscape, wildlife habitat, and environmentally sensitive locations. This isn't just a passing notion. The importance of a protective stewardship of our land has been passed down to me as a core value for over 4 generations; 3 of my great grandparents were original homesteaders.

The changes proposed in SB 425, not only weaken the protections we currently enjoy, but insert an additional veneer of unwelcomed government control over the interests of private landowners in determining the future of their holdings. It seems at odds with the expressed positions of some members of the Senate for less government infringement on the lives and activities of Kansans.

Despite the expressed neutral position on this legislation by the Kansas Association of Counties, I believe there is a greater reluctance for many of our county commissions to become the gate keepers for which properties merit protection. A number of commissioners with whom I have discussed this legislation were frankly surprised that they were being represented as neutral. Needless to say, they are not eager to have these additional demands imposed upon them.

I encourage the committee members to table this legislation and protect the very sound and effective Conservation Easement statutes that we now have. As stockman, a hunter, and a concerned citizen I find real value in being able to protect something for my children, grandchildren and future generations. I'm sure that many other Kansans feel the same way.

Thank you for your consideration.



George W. Ulbrick