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JACK THIMESCH
114TH DISTRICT

I'm here before you today to testify in support of HB 2621.

While I have a few minor reservations about how things may play out in this situation, I appreciate the work KDWPT has done to reach an agreement with the landowners, and support where things stand today.

KDWPT came to me a couple years ago to talk about this situation, and why they wanted to purchase the property.

At the time, I was concerned because two young farmers were leasing the land, and their livelihoods depended on it. However, KDWPT worked with both of them and came to an agreement to trade some land.

I still have some reservations when it comes to the idea of Ducks Unlimited or Quail Unlimited buying property and selling it to the state. Farmers can't get enough out of the land to compete with organizations like that.

I also have some concerns about how the property taxes will be handled because the township doesn't need to be covering the cost of maintaining the road once the farmers aren't paying the property taxes to take care of upkeep. Hunters will be driving the roads so it's important that they be kept up. I don't favor the idea of payment-in-leu-of, but I understand that KDWPT is looking into available options.

Despite the minor reservations I have, I urge your support of HB 2621.

Jack Thimesch

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