

Date: March 6, 2024

Re: HB 2800- Written Proponent

To: House Agriculture and Natural Resources, Chairman Rahjes

From: Claudia Hissong, Kansas Farm Bureau

Chairman Rahjes and members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on HB 2800. My name is Claudia Hissong, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) members. KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 30,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau Associations.

HB 2800 would increase the monetary cap that a conservation district may receive from the Division of Conservation. This increase is beneficial to Kansans as these conservation programs work to conserve and protect natural resources in Kansas. Cost share programs through the Division of Conservation support voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs that improve water quality and quantity, reduce soil erosion, and benefit the local water supply. KFB policy states *"Since the protection of natural resources is vital to all Kansans and important for future generations of Kansans, we support a dedicated statewide revenue source, expanding cost-share programs, creating tax incentives and establishing a state-revolving-loan fund for agricultural conservation and resource protection."*

Additionally, HB 2800 increases the matching funds that a county may receive from the Division of Conservation. This adjustment will provide assistance to smaller counties who may not have the funds to provide a one-to-one match, but still have a need for conservation programs in their communities.

The increased accessibility and monetary cap for conservation programs supports and expands voluntary, incentive-based conservation in the state of Kansas. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2800.