

CONGRESSIONAL
SPORTSMEN'S
FOUNDATION

To: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Appropriations
Re: House Bill 2543: Department of Wildlife and Parks Annual Reimbursement
Position: Support
Date: March 11, 2026

Honorable Members of the House Committee on Appropriations,

I am writing on behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation to respectfully request that you support the passage of House Bill 2543 (HB 2543), which would reimburse the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) for lost revenue from the issuance of free or discounted hunting and fishing licenses, thereby upholding the "user pays – public benefits" structure of the American System of Conservation Funding (ASCF).

Founded in 1989, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation is the informed authority across outdoor issues and serves as the primary conduit for influencing public policy. Working with the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC), the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus (GSC), and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC), CSF gives a voice to hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and trappers on Capitol Hill and throughout state capitols advocating on vital outdoor issues that are the backbone of our nation's conservation legacy.

Funded by the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and permits, along with revenue generated from self-imposed manufacturer-level excise taxes through the Pittman-Robertson Act and Dingell-Johnson Act with Wallop-Breaux Amendments, the ASCF serves as the primary source of revenue for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP). While the funding implications of discounted licenses or no-cost licenses are obvious, what is less known is the impact of these discounts on the ability of KDWP to fully claim their portion of revenue made available through the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration (Pittman-Robertson) and Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration (Dingell-Johnson) Acts. In making apportionments of Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Funds, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service uses a formula¹ that, in part, considers the number of eligible hunting (Pittman-Robertson) and fishing (Dingell-Johnson) licenses sold. To be counted, licenses not only need to be obtained by each hunter or angler but must also result in revenue collected by the state fish and wildlife agency (i.e., KDWP).

House Bill 2543 protects the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks from losing critical conservation funding from free and discounted hunting and fishing licenses by upholding the "user pays – public benefits" structure of the ASCF. This legislation ensures that KDWP is not only reimbursed for revenue lost due to free and discounted licenses but also ensures they are able to collect their share of federal apportionments.

¹ Congressional Research Service April 5, 2019. Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act Understanding Apportionments for States and Territories. Accessed: January 29, 2026. <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/misc/R45667.pdf>

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KDWP relies on funds generated through the sale of hunting and fishing licenses for their conservation efforts, which benefits all Kansans. I again ask that you support the passage of House Bill 2543, reimbursing KDWP for funds lost to free or discounted licenses. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this topic. Should you require additional information or have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jake Gould". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jake Gould
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