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Governor Kathleen Sebelius
Capitol
300 SW 10th Ave., Ste 212S
Topeka, KS 66612-1590

September 28, 2007

Dear Governor Sebelius and Secretary Miller:

The purpose of this letter is to share with you a brief fall overview of the lost opportunities for the State of Kansas to celebrate the native prairie wildflowers and grasses growing along our state's highways.

Audubon of Kansas is requesting and hoping that you can provide the leadership necessary to organize one or more meetings between KDOT officials and stakeholders that have an expressed interest in working with you to maximize opportunities to conserve, enhance and feature this legacy in ways that will build pride in the natural resources of our Kansas prairies-within the Flint Hills and other regions, as well.

In addition to Audubon of Kansas and local Audubon chapters, a number of other wildlife conservation, nature appreciation and tourism organizations have a strong interest in this subject, or are in a position to contribute knowledge and resources to make any initiative to develop the opportunities a success.

Organizations and agencies that have participated in committees devoted to improvement of roadside resources, in previous meetings or workshops devoted to the subject, or have expressed an interest in being involved include all of the following: the Kansas Native Plant Society, Quail Unlimited, Kansas Wildlife Federation, Dyck Arboretum, Kauffman Museum, Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever, the Kansas office of Scenic Byways, Midwest Bee Keepers Association, Monarch Watch (KU), Kansas Biological Survey (Craig Freeman) and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. It is only natural that other organizations including the following would also have an interest in participating and/or expertise to contribute: Kansas Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, Flint Hills Tourism Alliance, Great Plains Nature Center, KSU Science Libraries (Mike Haddock), Dillon Nature Center, Ernie Miller Nature Center, Kansas Wetland and Riparian Alliance, Grassland Heritage Foundation, Tallgrass Legacy Alliance, Emporia State University (Tom Eddy), Kansas Natural Resources Council, Kansas Rural Center (Troy Schroeder), Kansas Sierra Club, and Kansas Association of Conservation and Environmental Education.

This overview is being shared with representatives of many of those organizations, and the media, in our ongoing initiative to build appreciation of the opportunities that we have in Kansas.

We look forward to the potential for a series of meetings with you and others on this subject in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

Ron Klataske

CITIZENS COMMITTED TO CONSERVATION

Audubon of Kansas is a nonprofit membership organization devoted to wildlife and prairie conservation in Kansas and America's heartland. Audubon chapters in Kansas include: Burroughs A.S. - Kansas City; Jayhawk A. S. - Lawrence; Kanza A. S. - Emporia; Leavenworth A. S.; Northern Flint Hills A. S. - Manhattan; Smoky Hills A. S. - Salina; Sperry-Galligar A. S. - Pittsburg; Southeast Kansas A. S. - Parsons; Topeka A. S.; and Wichita A. S.