



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1734		DATE: 2/23/2026	
COMMITTEE: Conservation and Natural Resources			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: ADAM RAPERT		PHONE NUMBER: 636-577-7370	
REPRESENTING: COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS INSTITUTE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 215 E. CAPITOL AVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 11:50 PM

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I am in Support of this Bill and the Creation of the Fund and Low Interest-Rate Loans for Erosion-Control.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: CAROLYN NISWONGER		PHONE NUMBER: 314-956-5321
REPRESENTING:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 260 APPLE TREE COURT		
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65203
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DELLA MILLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 11:42 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Re: Support for HB 1734 – Soil Erosion Control Fund
Sponsor: Wellenkamp

I am writing to express our strong support for HB 1734, which establishes the Soil Erosion Control Fund.

Homeowners’ associations across Missouri are increasingly facing significant challenges related to soil erosion, sedimentation, and stormwater runoff. Natural drainage channels that run through or adjacent to residential communities are essential to protecting property, infrastructure, water quality, and ecological integrity. However, the cost of properly engineered erosion control and stream stabilization projects often exceeds what associations can reasonably fund through routine assessments alone.

HB 1734 provides a responsible and structured solution by creating a dedicated fund to assist neighborhoods in addressing these environmental and infrastructure concerns.

This legislation represents a practical partnership between the state and local communities. It empowers homeowners’ associations to responsibly maintain natural drainage systems while safeguarding Missouri’s environmental resources.

We respectfully urge your support of HB 1734 and appreciate your consideration of this important measure.

Sincerely,
Della Miller, CMCA, AMS, LSM, PCAM
Missouri Association Management
573-216-0827



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH SMITH		PHONE NUMBER: 573-694-5787	
REPRESENTING: THE NATURE CONSERVANCY		TITLE: EXTERNAL RELATIONS	
ADDRESS: 2904 PAULA DRIVE			
CITY: WEST PLAINS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65775
EMAIL: elizabethbax1111@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 2:01 PM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JANET BLAUVELT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/22/2026 11:56 AM
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I support HB 1734. Please vote YES!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LARRY GRIESHABER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 6:49 PM

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Soil erosion is one of the unseen and subsequently unsung problems that threatens both urban and rural communities. The Soil Erosion Control Fund is a necessary first step in addressing the frequently devastating effects of erosion.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: LAURA HOLLOWAY		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-9134
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI MUNICIPAL LEAGUE		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 1727 SOUTHRIDGE DR.		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: LIZ SMITH		PHONE NUMBER: 573-694-5787
REPRESENTING: NATURE CONSERVANCY		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: WEST PLAINS		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65575
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARK ZURBRICK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 10:06 AM

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Please help homeowners and communities fund projects and efforts that will prevent the erosion of soil and other contaminants into our streams and rivers. Clean water benefits each and ever Missourian.

Please vote YES for HB1734.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MELISSA VATTEROTT		PHONE NUMBER: 314-727-0600	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI COALITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF POLICY & STRATEGY	
ADDRESS: 25 KINGSLAND AVE SUITE 100, ST. LOUIS, MO 63130			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL: mvatterott@moenvironment.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 12:45 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

February 23, 2026
Chairman Jeff Farnan
House Conservation and Natural Resources Committee
MO House of Representatives
201 West Capitol Avenue
Room 410-A
Jefferson City MO 65101

Dear Chairman Farnan and Members of the Committee,

The Missouri Coalition for the Environment is a statewide, advocacy nonprofit organization that works to empower Missourians to protect their environment and health. HB 1734 proposes the creation of the Soil Erosion Control Fund. This legislation is vital to addressing the pressing environmental issue of soil erosion and sedimentation in Missouri's creeks, streams, and waterways, particularly in residential areas.

Developed areas dominated by concrete and other impermeable surfaces increase stormwater runoff and accelerate soil erosion, threatening ecosystem health, damaging infrastructure, and degrading water quality (1). For homeowners, erosion can also undermine foundations by shifting and destabilizing the soil that supports residential structures (2). By establishing this fund, the bill will provide homeowners' associations with the financial resources they need to implement effective, natural erosion control measures. These projects will focus on restoring natural features like culverts and creek banks, stabilizing waterways with vegetation, and improving flood management—all essential steps in protecting our water resources and the communities that rely on them.

The low-interest loans provided by this fund will make it financially feasible for homeowners' associations to carry out these vital projects, ensuring that they are accessible to communities throughout the state. By requiring a vote and assessment from homeowners' associations, the bill also ensures that these projects are driven by local support and community engagement.

In supporting House Bill 1734, we are investing in a healthier, more sustainable future for Missouri's environment and communities. I urge the committee to vote "yes" on this bill and help preserve the ecological integrity of our state's waterways.

Sincerely,

Melissa Vatterott, JD
Director of Policy & Strategy
mvatterott@moenvironment.org
314-727-0600, ext. 111

(1) "Soil Erosion and Degradation" <https://www.worldwildlife.org/our-work/forests/soil-erosion-and-degradation/>

(2) "Soil & Foundation: How Erosion Affects Your Home"
<https://erosionmanagementservices.com/blog/soil-and-foundation-how-erosion-affects-your-home/>



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MYRA J SCROGGS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 11:09 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Dear Representative, I am in favor of passing this bill for the following reasons:
The bill creates a revolving loan program to help HOAs address erosion control.
Provides financial support for proactive land stabilization and stormwater management.
Prevents dangerous land erosion that can damage homes, roads, and infrastructure.
Reduces risks of sinkholes, slope failures, and unstable common areas.
Protects residents from avoidable safety hazards.
Please vote yes for this bill.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: NICOLE LEWIS		PHONE NUMBER: 636-970-1887
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SENTRY MANAGEMENT; CAI MO LAC		TITLE: DIVISION PRESIDENT
ADDRESS: 7421 MEXICO RD. SUITE 101		
CITY: ST. PETERS		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63376
EMAIL: nlewis@sentrymgt.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 9:59 AM

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In my role working closely with community associations, I regularly see associations facing urgent infrastructure and environmental maintenance needs—particularly related to erosion control, stormwater management, and shoreline stabilization. These are not cosmetic improvements; they are critical repairs that protect homes, common property, local waterways, and surrounding communities.

Unfortunately, many associations do not have sufficient reserves to address these large, unexpected capital expenses. Without access to responsible financing options, boards are often forced to delay critical work, which can lead to worsening damage, higher long-term costs, and increased risk to public safety and the environment.

HB1734 provides a practical, proactive solution. By enabling HOAs to access loan funding for essential erosion and land/water control projects, this legislation helps ensure that necessary maintenance can be performed promptly and responsibly. It supports sound infrastructure management, environmental stewardship, and financial stability within our communities.

Based on my experience working with associations that would directly benefit from this program, I strongly encourage your support of HB1734.

Thank you for your consideration.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: PETER SCHNEEBERGER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/22/2026 8:25 PM
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Homeowners need support to control erosion as our rain patterns change. This is a worthy idea to benefit Missouri residents.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TODD BILLY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 10:29 AM	
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As few options are available for community associations to access funds for erosion control, this bill provides an important pathway for them. This bill would greatly benefit many of my community association clients throughout the State of Missouri



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: TOM DEMPSEY		PHONE NUMBER: 636-288-7461
REPRESENTING: ST. CHARLES COUNTY		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 3103 BUCKSKIN PATH		
CITY: ST. CHARLES		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63301
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: WILLIAM R GUNTHER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 11:50 AM
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Good afternoon. My name is Bill Guinther (Gunther) and I reside in Lake Sherwood Estates Association in Warren County. Lake Sherwood is a community of six lakes with three regulated dams. Watershed into our lakes is a serious, growing, and expensive issue. We have several erosion control projects in the planning stages right now that are critical to the health of all our lakes. The costs are well into the six figure range. This revolving fund could make it more cost effective for our community to remediate such situations. We appreciate your consideration of such a revolving fund.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ZACH MORRIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 12:00 AM	
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