

State of Kansas
House of Representatives

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John E. Barker
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March 2, 2016

Chairman Hutton and Distinguished Members of the House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee:

Re: Kansas Expanded Gaming Bill

I appear today as a proponent to the Kansas Expanded Gaming Bill. As many of you know, I have supported expanded gaming in the state of Kansas since I first was elected in 2012 as a representative of the 70th District, which includes Abilene and Marion, Kansas. This is a very important issue. Historically Abilene has been the home of greyhound racing in the nation since the 1940's. The National Registry is located in Abilene along with the Greyhound Hall of Fame. During the 1990's when greyhound racing was permitted in the state of Kansas, greyhound farms flourished and were a big contributor to the local economy. Since the closure of the race tracks, the Abilene area, as well as the entire state of Kansas, has suffered due to the loss of revenue.

Expanded gaming is a good idea for the following reasons:

- We believe expanded racing could add 3,000+ jobs to the state when all three tracks open.
- Additional revenue to the state could be in the tens of millions of dollars.
- Secondary economic factors would be production of additional feed for horses and greyhounds and the increase of expanded veterinary care.
- The racing track locations would benefit local hotels and restaurants.
- Horse racing could affect the Kansas City area since there are over 5,000 horse breeders in the state who I believe will bring their horses home from other states where they are presently racing.
- The proposed tracks would pay local property taxes as well as sales taxes where state casinos do not.

I will not take any more of your time so other proponents better qualified can give their important testimony. If I can be of further assistance, please advise.

Respectfully,

John E. Barker
Representative, 70th District