

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TOURISM COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Barbara P. Allen at 1:30 p.m. on February 17, 1998 in Room 522-S-of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Rep. Larkin - excused
Rep. O'Neal - excused
Rep. Presta - excused

Committee staff present: Tom Severn, Legislative Research Department
Mark Burenheide, Legislative Research Department
Rena Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes
Nancy Kirkwood, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Norine Kruse, Director, Division Travel Tourism & Film Services of KDOCH - proponent
Mikel Miller, Kansas Inc. - proponent
Steve Williams, Secretary, Wildlife & Parks - neutral
Bill Rhodes, County Commissioner, Jefferson County, McLouth, KS - proponent
Bob Best, Owner, Lake Perry Yacht & Marina - proponent
Larry Cope, Executive Director, Jefferson County Economic Development Commission - proponent
David O. Bossemeyer, Executive Director, Junction City - Geary County Economic Development Commission - proponent
Jim Nixon, Owner & Operator, Phillips 66 Service Station and Chairman of Convention & Visitors Bureau - proponent
Scott Price, Fort Riley Public Affairs Office - Community Relations Officer & Author - proponent
Lynda Lowry, Executive Director, Abilene Area Chamber of Commerce - proponent
Jeff Lueker, Retail Specialist, Junction City - Geary County Economic Development Commission - proponent

Others attending: See attached list

Chairperson Allen brought the committee's attention to the hearing on **HB 2894 - Duties of the Kansas tourist attraction evaluation committee.**

Chairperson Allen recognized Norine Kruse, Director, Division Travel Tourism & Film Services of KDOCH, who stated to the committee that the Department of Travel Tourism was concurring with 2 of the 6 recommendations by Kansas Inc., referring to the existing attraction development grant program. These 2 recommendations would take legislative action to change the existing statute. One of the recommendations is to amend K.S.A. 74-5090 to clarify that final approval and award of tourism attraction grants is vested in the Secretary of Commerce & Housing. The second recommendation is to remove the requirement that the Tourism Attraction Evaluation Committee provide technical advice to local communities and local attractions (**Attachment 1**).

Mikel Miller, Kansas Inc. spoke to the committee regarding the recommendations. Ms. Miller was the analyst who headed up the project when Kansas Inc. analyzed and made recommendations on the program. It was the recommendation of Kansas Inc. that the Lt. Governor have the final authority on approving and awarding tourism attraction grants. It was not something Lt. Governor Sherrer had desired. He had not asked Kansas Inc. to make the recommendations, rather, they originated from Kansas, Inc.

Chairperson Allen closed the hearing on **HB 2894 - Duties of the Kansas tourist attraction evaluation committee** and opened the hearing on **HB 2899 - concerning the department of wildlife and parks; referring to the development of lake resorts, funding, negotiations, duties.**

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TOURISM COMMITTEE, Room 522-S-S Statehouse, at 1:30 p.m. on February 17, 1997.

Steve Williams, Secretary, Wildlife & Parks, recognized by Chairperson Allen spoke as a proponent of **HB 2899**. Secretary Williams stated **HB 2899** would authorize the development of a comprehensive multi-purpose lake resort on one of six state parks identified within the bill. Secretary Williams stated upon review of **HB 2899** he would make a recommendation on page 3, Section 6, line 21, to also include after the word land " or leased property". This would conform the language with the provisions of Section eight (page 5, line 10) and is necessary since all six sites included within **HB 2899** are on property leased from the federal government by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (**Attachment 2**).

Chairperson Allen recognized William "Bill" Rhodes, County Commissioner, Jefferson County, proponent (**Attachment 3**)

Bob Best, representing Lake Perry Yacht & Marina, Inc., and The Kansas Boaters Association was recognized by Chairperson Allen as a proponent (**Attachment 4**).

Larry Cope, Executive Director, Jefferson County Economic Development Commission, proponent, was recognized by Chairperson Allen (**Attachment 5**)

Chairperson Allen recognized David Bossemeyer, Executive Director, Junction City-Geary County, proponent (**Attachment 6**).

Jim Nixon, Owner and Operator, Phillips 66 Service Station, proponent, was recognized by Chairperson Allen (**Attachment 7**).

Scott Price, Ft Riley Public Affairs Officer, proponent, was recognized by Chairperson Allen (**Attachment 8**).

Chairperson Allen recognized Lynda Lowry, Executive Director, Abilene Area Chamber of Commerce, proponent (**Attachment 9**).

Jeff Lueker, Retail Specialist, Junction City- Geary County Economic Development Commission, proponent, was recognized by Chairperson Allen (**Attachment 10**).

Letters of support on **HB 2899** were passed out to committee. Written testimony only as follows:

Rosemary Crilly, Executive Director, Chamber of Commerce/Mainstreet (**Attachment 11**).

Morris M. "MO" Greenwood, Mayor, City of Milford (**Attachment 12**).

Marietta Lucas, Certified Municipal Clerk, City of Chapman (**Attachment 13**).

Major John R. Stauter, W.S. Army Public Affairs Officer (**Attachment 14**).

Mark Oliphant, President, Milford Lake Association (**Attachment 15**).

Jim Nixon, Chairman, Geary County Convention & Visitors Bureau (**Attachment 16**).

Rich Bailey, Executive Director, Kansas Wildscape (**Attachment 17**).

Becky Blake, Director, Manhattan Chamber of Commerce (**Attachment 18**).

Don Garrison, Secretary, Geary County Fish & Game Ass'n Inc. (**Attachment 19**).

Chairperson Allen closed the hearing on **HB 2899 - concerning the department of wildlife & parks; relating to the development of lake resorts, funding, negotiations, duties.**

Rep. Wilk requested that Renae Jefferies draft a committee resolution to address the boat tax issue, changing the classification on boats to where RV's are at. Rep. Osborne seconded the motion. The motion carried

Chairperson Allen informed the committee the next meeting would be Thursday to discuss and work the bills they had heard.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 19, 1998

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TOURISM GUEST LIST

DATE: Tuesday February 17, 1998.

NAME	REPRESENTING
Gary Toebben	Lawrence Chamber
Judy Billings	Lawrence CVB
Sarah S. Dean	citizen - Jefferson Co.
Bob Best	K'S BOATERS ASSOCIATION
Larry Cope	Jefferson County Economic Devp. Comm.
Jim Nixon	Geary County CVB
David Bossenyer	Junction City
Lynnda Howrey	Abilene Chamber
Alex Kotyantz	Junction City, Ks. CVB
Marlene Kruse	KDOCH, Tourism
Chad Kruse	KDWP
Jeff W. Tucker	Junction City / E.D.C.
Nick Wenzel	Partnership w/ Rep Town Flood
Rep. Joann Flann	District 47
STEVE WILLIAMS	KDWP
Dick Koerth	KDWP

Recommendations

The Attraction Development Grant Program has been found to be effectively meeting its statutory goal and is recommended for continuation with consideration of the following modifications.

- ▶ **Consideration should be given to the development of a small planning grant to be used to help recipients develop projects prior to requesting a development grant.**

This evaluation has found that the most successful projects are those where a thorough planning process preceded the actual project development. Judging by the quality of projects presented to the 1997 round of funding, very few projects that went unfunded were at the point where funding would have been appropriate. In some of those cases, however, additional conceptual work and planning may have made the project viable and more worthy of funding.

A portion of the additional \$100,000 appropriated for the program for FY 1998 could be used to provide modest planning grants to help develop projects.

- ▶ **Require that all applications for grants contain plans for a reliable system or methodology to collect and report essential visitor data.**

Many grant recipients have no system in place to record the number of visitors to their attractions. It is also important to know the origin of those visitors if one hopes to accurately estimate the economic impact of an attraction or its development. Organizations receiving attraction development grants must be made aware of the importance of keeping accurate records and of the necessity to report those figures to the Department of Commerce & Housing or its agent upon request. No application for an attraction development grant should be considered for funding unless it contains a plan for tracking the number of visitors and their origins.

- ▶ **Develop a standardized methodology by which the organization can quantify a project's economic impact and require that this information be reported for a period of two years after the project is completed.**

At present, the survey instrument used to gather economic impact of grant projects uses too narrow a definition of economic impact and provides little assistance in determining the impact. Specifically, the questionnaire used by the Department of Commerce & Housing's contract researcher asks the grant recipient to document change in "revenue generated by the attraction." The grant recipient is asked to include only direct impact and not indirect economic impact data, however, no instruction as to what these direct and indirect economic impacts are is provided. Judging by recipient answers, this question is often misunderstood and rarely reported accurately. For example, it is inaccurate to say that although an attraction does not charge admission, and therefore does not generate revenues, that the attraction has no economic impact whatsoever. In addition to admission fees, on-site retail sales, payroll figures, and expenses related to the day-to-day operation of the attraction, all have an effect on the local economy. In order to calculate the true economic value an attraction has on a community, the number of visitors and their origin remains

the most crucial piece of information in the formula. Again, no application for an attraction development grant should be considered for funding unless it contains a plan for tracking the number of visitors and their origins.

- ▶ **Amend K.S.A. 74-5090 to clarify that final approval and award of tourism attraction grants is vested in the Secretary of Commerce & Housing.**

The existing statute states that the Kansas Tourism Attraction Evaluation Committee “shall . . . approve and disapprove all applications for matching grants. . .” Normally, only the Secretary has authority to approve the disbursement of funds from the Department. While the role of the committee is highly important to the process, its function should be advisory and its responsibility limited to making recommendations to the Secretary on grant awards. Given existing statutory language, the authority of the Secretary to make final decisions on grant awards should be clarified. See page 8 for further explanation.

- ▶ **Amend K.S.A. 74-5090 to remove the requirement that the Tourism Attraction Evaluation Committee provide technical advice upon request to any local tourist attraction on ways to improve its operation.**

Given that the Tourism Attraction Evaluation Committee members serve without compensation, it is unreasonable to ask for such a commitment. In addition, this requirement has made it difficult to fill committee positions. Consequently, past and present Secretaries of Commerce & Housing have excused committee members from this burdensome duty.

- ▶ **At least a one-half, full-time equivalent position should be dedicated to the Attraction Development Grant Program.**

Presently, one full-time equivalent position is responsible for administering all facets of this program. However, due to the other duties required of this position description, the present program manager is able to spend less than 20 percent of her time on this program. Although the current program manager is highly capable, this constraint prohibits her from performing many duties as thoroughly as needed. These include: in-depth monitoring of active projects, auditing of project budgets and expenditures, and most importantly, providing the technical assistance required by many applicants and grant recipients.



STATE OF KANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & PARKS

Office of the Secretary
900 SW Jackson, Suite 502
Topeka, KS 66612-1233
785/296-2281 FAX 785/296-6953



February 17, 1998

Representative Barbara Allen, Chairperson
Committee on Tourism
House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Allen:

I appreciate the opportunity to discuss House Bill No. 2899 with the Committee on Tourism. This bill would authorize the development of a comprehensive multi-purpose lake resort on one of six state parks identified within the bill. The proposed resort would be constructed with the cooperation of state government, local governments, and private developers.

The provisions of House Bill No. 2899 provide for several steps or actions to be taken prior to the actual development of a resort. These actions follow in an orderly progression which will allow for appropriate consideration and review of a potential resort facility being located on one of the following six state parks: Cheney, Clinton, El Dorado, Hillsdale, Perry, and Milford.

Sections One and Two provide that the Secretaries of Wildlife and Parks, Commerce and Housing, and Transportation will develop an incentive plan outlining the State's commitment toward lake resort development. State incentives that could be provided could include infrastructure improvements such as utilities and roads, tax considerations, and economic development grants. Once the state incentive plan is developed, the Secretaries of Wildlife and Parks and Commerce and Housing will approach local communities adjacent to the listed state parks to determine the incentives that can be provided by the local communities. Section Three authorizes the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks to negotiate with the appropriate federal government agency for resort development and seek legislative approval as required by KSA 32-843.

The provisions of Section Four authorize the Secretaries of Wildlife and Parks and Commerce and Housing to develop requests for proposals to develop a lake resort, advertise for proposals, consider all proposals that are submitted; and to select, negotiate and contract for the construction of a lake resort. Such resort shall be operated as a private concession and will be developed with private funding which could include revenue bonds issued by the Kansas Development Finance Authority in amounts not to exceed \$30,000,000 for any one resort. In addition, the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks and the Secretary of Commerce and Housing are authorized to engage a private consultant to assist in contract development. This section also

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authorizes the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks to waive any relevant park fees, to obtain revenue from a resort that is developed, and to include penalty provisions for nonperformance by an approved resort developer or operator.

The provisions of the bill require all of the above actions to be taken prior to requesting Legislative approval of the site chosen for the resort development and the amount of bonds to be issued for such development. Section Seven does allow the State Finance Council to approve of the site and amount of bonds issued if the Legislature is not in session. Finally, the bill amends existing state law (KSA 41-719) to allow for the consumption of alcoholic beverages in a lake resort located on state-owned or leased property and requires the Secretaries of Wildlife and Parks and Commerce and Housing to present a status report on resort development to the Legislature and Governor during the 1999 Legislative Session. The bill would become effective upon publication in the Kansas Register.

In summary, I would like to comment on the following major points included within the provisions of House Bill No. 2899. One, the intent of this legislation is to have the State, local communities, and private entities cooperate on the development of a lake resort in Kansas. Two, any such resort would be located on one of six state parks identified within the bill and determined by approval of a proposal submitted by a private developer for a resort on one of the six sites. Three, the financing of such a resort should be provided by a private developer but could include revenue bonds issued by the Kansas Development Finance Authority and repaid by revenue from operation of the resort that is developed. And Four, the final approval of any resort to be developed will be by the Legislature.

Upon further review of the bill, I would recommend that it be amended on page 3, Section 6, line 21, to also include after the word land "or leased property". This would conform the language with the provisions of Section eight (page 5, line 10) and is necessary since all six sites included within House Bill No. 2899 are on property leased from the federal government by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. If you or members of the Committee on Tourism have any questions, please advise.

Sincerely,



Steven A. Williams, Secretary
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

Williams\HB2899

Jefferson County, Kansas

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

William K. Rhodes

First District

Charlie Geist

Second District

Francis Grollmes

Third District

P.O. Box 321 • Oskaloosa, Kansas 66066 • 863-2272

February 17, 1998

COUNTY OFFICES

Commissioners
863-2272

Clerk
863-2272

Attorney
863-2251

Sheriff
863-2351

Register of Deeds
863-2243

Treasurer
863-2691

Clerk of the
District Court
863-2461

Engineer
863-2211

Appraiser
863-2080

Noxious Weed
863-2581

Emergency
Preparedness
863-2247

Extension
863-2212

Planning & Zoning
863-2241

Ambulance
863-2278

Health
Department
863-2447

Good Afternoon. My name is William K. "Bill" Rhodes. I am a County Commissioner from Jefferson County and I want to testify in favor of House Bill No. 2899.

For years, we have considered Lake Perry our most undeveloped resource because we lacked the ability to properly develop the area. The incentive package in this bill will help communities and county governments pursue their dreams.

As we all know, for years Kansas has not received its share of the tourist business. With the inception of NASCAR race track and the possibility of Land of Ahs, Kansas will soon be the place to go to, not through.

As a county of 17,000, we have as many as 70,000 people on some weekends, visiting Lake Perry. We often hear these weekend visits referred to as "a day in paradise". A lake resort would greatly enhance the area and give the economy a big boost.

I thank you for the opportunity to appear and testify on this visionary bill.

From "The Field of Dreams". "Build it and they will come".

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Attachment 3

hopeful profit motive for operating a business, the state just has to increase taxes somewhere if the expenses exceed the revenues. The problem with most small business owners today is that they are now being taxed to the point that profits are becoming a scarce commodity for them as well. Consequently, the government may be the only entity that can afford to operate a facility in a loss position without the fear of bankruptcy.

Seriously, this State needs to look at the whole picture of why Kansas is at the bottom of the list when it comes to tourism and, the development of resorts, the appropriation of funds for park development and maintenance, etc. Why should we continue to tap Kansas taxpayers for funds to develop and run parks and resorts and then charge them increased fees to use them. Lets be pro-active rather than reactive. Just like in business why don't we look at our competition in neighboring states and see what they are doing in the areas of boat taxes, recreational vehicles , recreational equipment manufacturers, signage, park fees, amenities, marinas, etc. Rather than talking about incentives first for development, why not focus on removing the dis-incentives that are in place that are currently prohibiting the development of financially viable resorts and other recreational pursuits in Kansas. What came first - the chicken or the egg? The bottom line is that while the vast majority would like to see a resort or resorts on Kansas Lakes they are seriously concerned about there long term ability to survive without incurring substantial additional tax burden when the facilities don't make ends meet. The old saying that "If you build it they will come". We are saying " You can build it but they may not come and if they do , they won't stay long".

We have numerous examples of what we are talking about and why? To share a few briefly.

1. We just sold a customer a new sailboat that costs in excess of \$200,000.00. It is being shipped to Missouri because of the unfavorable taxes at lake Perry where they would prefer to be. We had a new customer, that had just moved to the area, signed up at our Marina to lease a slip. When they found out what it was going to cost them for boat taxes they declined.

2. We have over 500 total boats in our facility and only four that are newer expensive boats. The tax situation keeps them away. In fact, one of the best boats in the world is made in Neodeshe, Kansas and they sell them all over the world. They can't hardly sell them in their own state because of the tax issue.

3. Many boats in the state are leaving the state to avoid taxes and in fact when you look at the revenues minus the administrative costs in each county and the State to deal with the boat tax issue, there may not be much on the bottom line.

Please don't pass this legislation without simultaneously approving a reduction of the current boat taxing level from 30% of assessed valuation to no more than 11 1/2 %. Resorts may then have a chance of succeeding in the state of Kansas.

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Attachment 4

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KANSAS STATE PARK RESORT AT PERRY LAKE

Jefferson County Economic Development Commission
OSKALOOSA, KANSAS

Larry Cope
(Executive Director)

Perry Lake

Perry Lake offers over 159 miles of shore line and 11,150 surface acres of water with unmatched beauty anywhere in the State of Kansas.

Perry Lake offers location, we are 15 miles from Lawrence, 14 miles to Topeka, and 48 miles to Kansas City.

Perry Lake offers the largest number of visitors to any lake in the State of Kansas.

Perry Lake offers excellent water quality for both fishing and water activities.

Perry Lake is ranked #1 in the United States for Crappie Fishing by two major national magazines.

Perry Lake also offers:

- 9 recreational parks
- 2 Full service Marinas
- 3 swimming beaches
- Mountain Bike Trails
- 12 Hunting areas
- ATV and motorbike areas
- Wetland , riparian, grassland, bottomland forest, and lake shore conservation areas
- 2 Full service 18-Hole Golf Courses, and 1 driving range
- Annual Sailing Regattas (600 Sail boats are registered at Lake Perry)
- There are 2 public and 1 private sail harbors
- 29 mile Perry Lake Walking Trail (with unmatched scenic beauty)
- Over a 1000 private and public camping sites.
- Perry Lake area abounds with abundant wildlife.
- 22 mile Equestrian Trail on Perry State Park side of lake
- Branson Style vaudeville melodramas preformed at a 100 year old farm.
- Cajun style Cruise Boat with a capacity of 150 people
- Hosts one of the Largest 4th of July Fireworks celebrations in Kansas with crowds exceeding 50,000.

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Attachment 5

Jefferson County offers ...

- Additional accommodations and conference space at 4 Bed & Breakfasts, 3 Camps, and 1 Lodge
- Additional entertainment like:

Cajun style Cruise Boat
Branson Style vaudeville melodramas
Mclouth Threshing Bee & Steam Engine Show
Mclouth BBQ Blowout
Meriden Horse Power Days
Meriden Steam Engine Show
Meriden Fall Festival
Old Settlers Day's Celebration
Jon Stuart Curry Fall Festival
Perry Lake Regattas
Perry Lake Boat Show
Nortonville Fall Festival

Plus ... Perry Lake close to the entertainment resources in Topeka (14 miles), Lawrence (15 miles), and Kansas City (48 miles). i.e. Expocenter and adjacent Hotel and Convention Center, Topeka Performing Arts Center, Topeka World Famous Zoo, Kansas History Museum, The Capital Building, Kansas University, Numerous Private & Public Museums in Lawrence and Topeka.

- Old Jefferson Town Museum
- Old Jefferson Town Genealogical Center
- Valley Falls Historical Museum
- Apple Orchards and Nut & Berry Farms
- Antique Shops
- Buffalo and other exotic animal farms and ranches
- NCAA cross-country Races
- Unique Restraunts like

English Tearoom
Best Ribs Place in Kansas
Three pound Hamburgers

Perry State Park

Year Founded 1968 Lake Size 11,150 Surface Acres
 Size 1,597 Acres Boat Ramps 10
 Campsites 224 (124 w/ util.) Marina Slips 450 (170 in sailboat area)

Population	1990	1996	Growth Rate
25 Miles	344,520	357,962	0.8%
50 Miles	1,534,907	1,610,466	1.0%
100 Miles	2,567,347	2,670,899	0.8%

Source: ESRI, Economics Research Associates

Closest Cities: Topeka, Lawrence

Visitation: 226,452 (1996) Total Lake 794,887 (w/ Corps 9/96-9/97)

Revenue: \$94,130 (1996)

Topography: Located in the Glaciated Region; "rounded hills and broad valleys" with quartzite deposits. This park is quite hilly, with a sandy area near Rock Creek.

Foliage: Mixed timber covers most of the park area.

Access: Moderate access is provided by US 24 a partially divided two- and four-lane road to Topeka and Lawrence. A more direct connection to Interstate 70, only a few miles to the south, would improve access immensely.

Nearby Attractions: Lake Perry Country Club and The Village Greens golf courses; several local restaurants; the Barn Theater. Most other attractions are located near Lawrence or Topeka.

Nearby Development: Most of the surrounding area is characterized by small towns, agricultural land, and undeveloped areas. A gathering of single family homes lies directly to the north and west of the park.

Potential Site: The Delaware Area provides excellent lake views and access, is located adjacent to the marina, and across from the main State Park.

Utilities:

Water Rural Water District
 Electricity Rural Electric
 Sewer Above-ground oxidation ponds
 Heat Propane

Other Facilities: None

Honorable Representative Barbara Allen
Chairperson, Committee on Tourism
HB2899

Milford Reservoir is located 70 miles west of Topeka and four miles northwest of Junction City. Junction City itself sits directly on Interstate 70, the state's major east-west route. However, of greater significance, Milford sits between several large populations:

Manhattan	28 miles	Wichita	113 miles
Abilene	26 miles	Kansas City	131 miles
Salina	52 miles	Lincoln, Nebraska	141 miles
Hutchinson	109 miles	Omaha, Nebraska	180 miles

The population of the valley from Wamego to Abilene alone is over 180,000.

Milford Reservoir is the state's largest lake with 15,600 surface acres and some 163 miles of accessible shoreline. There is excellent clear-water quality for fishing and recreation. I know that one of my fellow presenters will provide you information on that topic so I will leave that to him.

Presently, Milford hosts one of the largest fish hatcheries in the Midwest. This is not something you might think of when you think of Kansas attractions. Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks operates the Milford Nature Center, a visitor center designed to give an understanding of nature, plants, fish and wildlife. This is a highly visited center with persons registered from:

Nebraska	Missouri	Ohio	Texas	Colorado
California	Illinois	Michigan	Florida	Pennsylvania
Germany	Puerto Rico	England	Japan	Canada
Korea	Switzerland	Denmark	Iceland	Russia
South Wales				

Milford boasts 10 established recreational areas as well as two full service marinas. The Milford Yacht Club offers private docks for those who may be inclined to join. Milford also boasts established walking and riding trails. Within a short distance of the site is the Kansas Landscape Arboretum, the Milford Radio Control (Plane & Car) club field and a range for trap & sport shooting and archery.

If golf is what you desire, below the dam is Rolling Meadows Golf Course which is always rated as one of the top municipal courses by Golf Digest Magazine. Within 25 miles you can play golf at a minimum of 6 other courses. Manhattan, which is a short drive from the site, is building a new PGA course.

If history and attractions are your choice, Milford Reservoir is surrounded by opportunities. Fort Riley, a frontier military base, was first occupied in the Fall of 1852. It is presently the "Home of Americas Army" and houses such sites as:

The 1st Cavalry Museum	1st Infantry Division Museum
Summerhall built in 1889	Old Trooper Monument
Custer House	Main Post Chapel built in 1897

The soldiers are almost always training and live fire exercises can often be viewed by arrangement.

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Attachment 6

Abilene a short drive to the west is home of the following attractions:

Home of Eisenhower Center & Museum	
Greyhound Hall of Fame	Kansas Sports Hall of Fame
Antique Doll Museum	Hall of Telephony

Manhattan to the east is home of Kansas State University and offers a variety of activities from the arts to sporting events. Manhattan being the largest city in the area offers a wealth of dining and entertainment opportunities.

Junction City itself is a historic community with much of it's downtown buildings being of 1800's vintage. It host the Geary County Historic Museum and a long running Little Theater program.

Where am I leading with all this information, Milford reservoir as recognized by the most recent study as I quote "Milford State Park offers the best site for development, including lake view, beach access and development of utilities." In fact Milford rated well in all categories with the exception of location. I would respond to that in the following manner. The study itself states that the two major markets for this type of resort would be Kansas City and Wichita. I would leave you with the fact that Lake Milford falls half way between both major markets. I would also leave you to think about whether the market that attends a Lake Resort is the same as the one that attends a Metropolitan Convention Center. In a study commissioned by the State, "The Kansas State Park and Resource Authority Proposed Vacation-Resort Complex" of October, 1973 stated that:

"The primary attraction of the resort industry is an atmosphere of relaxation within which resort guests may enjoy a variety of services and participate in a number of recreational activities. This atmosphere is keyed to providing a change of pace for the guest from his normal routine of life. The atmosphere is usually created within a setting of natural beauty, in a location where natural resources stimulate recreation, or a setting that combines these amenities. Because such amenities are generally associated with 'getting away from it all', a great number of resort operations have relatively remote locations."

Is it the goal of the state to help build an additional metro convention center or a new type of resort center which the state at present lacks.

Having read House Bill No. 2899, it is very clear that a large factor in the location decision will be the developer himself. I do encourage you to provide Kansans an opportunity to have a facility of this type. We of course hope it will be located at Milford Reservoir.

OUTDOOR ATTRACTIONS AT MILFORD LAKE

Quantity and quality best describe the opportunities for hunters, fishermen and non consumptive users both on and off the waters of Lake Milford, the largest and bluest lake in Kansas. The 16,000 surface acres are surrounded by a diverse shoreline habitat that encourages the propagation of several species of game fish. Black bass, both the large mouth and small mouth varieties, provide great excitement and a lot of tournament fishing. Habitat improvement for largemouth bass is undertaken yearly as ice permits by local sportsman's groups and the smallmouth thrive on the rocky shore areas and breakwaters. White bass and their hybrid cousins the wipers thrive in fresh water. The prolific white bass school with larger wipers (over 10 lbs.) and create the fastest fishing around.

The state fish, the channel catfish, is abundant and a favorite with shore fishermen. Flathead catfish provide sport for those wanting something over 40 lbs. Walleye fishing is excellent. With the 18" limit, trophy fish over 6 lbs. and impressive five fish stringers are common. The ever popular crappie is sought year round if ice in the coves is safe. A good population of eight species make a super fishery.

Boating and water sports are popular at Milford. Given the lake size and many large coves, a place protected from excess wind can usually be found. Two marinas on the lake (one in the state park) and many Corps of Engineer boat ramps keep launching time to a minimum, seldom is there a wait. A yacht club has an area of a state park cove- an excellent facility.

Quantity and Quality also describe the hunting around Milford. Quail hunting in north central and north east Kansas is known across the entire USA. Pheasant hunting from Milford Lake to the west is excellent and the prairie chicken of the flint hills area extend around Milford. Water fowling at the lake is excellent and will be further improved with the addition of the 2300 acre Corp of Engineers wetland project due to start next year. The harvested crop fields are major duck and goose feeding areas when most of the lake is frozen and field hunting is popular. From September teal season, through March goose season, 6 months of the year are open for migratory hunting.

White tail deer and turkeys are two big game species abundant in most areas near Milford. The trophy size of Kansas deer is well known and out of state deer hunting will be a reality in the near future. Turkeys have become a very popular pursuit in recent years and Milford creek drainage areas have good numbers. Rabbits and squirrels are numerous in the woods and grass lands in the lake area.

The Milford Lake area has 18,000 acres in the wildlife management area, 63,000 acres on adjacent Ft. Riley (acreage varies depending on training), and Walk In Hunting Areas (WIHA) leased by Kansas Wildlife and Parks grew to over 46,000 acres within one and one half hours drive from Milford. Additionally, the Tuttle Creek Wildlife Area is 25 miles to the east and Geary State Fishing Lake and Washington State Lake areas are near. Private land is often available if you ask.

House Tourism
2-17-98
Attachment 7

Non consumptive users are lead by bird watchers. With a large number of eagles at Milford, the wet lands at the north end of the lake (it will be the third largest in the state), the diverse riparian habitat and the area grasslands, bird watchers will come in large numbers. Fossil hunting in the limestone rocks, horse trails and nearby nature trails are other outdoor activities.

Related places of interest are the Milford Fish Hatchery, with state of the art technology for rearing bass, walleye, wipers, catfish and paddlefish for restoration to traditional waters. Next to the hatchery is the Milford Nature Center, first in the state and a joint project using private and Kansas Wildlife and Parks funding, it is used for outdoor education for all ages and extensively by area schools. The arboretum is a study of Kansas trees and plants near Wakefield. The Konza prairie and Flint Hills Scenic Drive east of Junction City are superb and trap shooting and sporting clay shoots are only a five minute drive from the park.

Thank You

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Nixon", written in a cursive style.

James Nixon

**Fort Riley
Community Support Request Tour Data Sheet
1997**

Historic Driving Tours--72

Custer House Tours --86

Cavalry Museum Tours--77

1st ID Museum Tours--59

First Territorial Capitol Tours--41

Cavalry Stable Tours--14

Parks and Lakes Reservations--4

Tactical Motor Pool Tours--7

Military Reunion Tours--1

Specialty Tours--58

Military-Army Buses and Drivers Support--5

1997 Tour Data From Post Museums

Total Number of Tours From Combined Sources--5,106

Total Number of Individuals Taking Part in Fort Riley Tours--45,651

House Tourism
2-17-98
Attachment 8



AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

500 N. Buckeye • Post Office Box 446
Abilene, Kansas 67410
(785) 263-1770

Mr. Alex Kotoyantz
Regional Geologist
1015 W. 9th St.
Junction City, Ks 66441

Re: Construction of resort at Milford Lake State Park in Junction City, Kansas

Dear Alex:

The Abilene Area Chamber of Commerce is in full support of the construction of the resort at Milford Lake State Park in Junction City, Kansas. Abilene has a population of 6,700 and is located 22 miles west of Milford Lake on I-70.

Our support is based on the anticipation this project will allow tourists to visit Abilene which has a proud and colorful history.

Abilene's history has been well-preserved in its quality museums and beautifully restored historic homes. A diverse economic base is supported by several manufacturing firms and a growing service industry. Thousands of visitors from around the world travel to Abilene each year to tour and shop in the growing number of antique and specialty gift shops.

Abilene's reputation as the "wickedest & wildest town in the west" developed as hundreds of cowboys arrived in town along the historic Chisholm Trail during the late 1800's. The name Abilene means city of the plains and was selected from Luke 3:1 in the Bible by Sylvia Hersey, the wife of Abilene's founder, Timothy Hersey.

Over 3 million head of Texas Longhorn cattle arrived in Abilene between the years of 1867 & 1872, to be shipped east by rail. Tom Smith and Wild Bill Hickok became famous for their attempts to maintain law and order on Abilene's legendary Texas Street.

C.W. Parker operated an amusement company south of Abilene, manufacturing hand-carved carousels and carnival equipment. Dr. A.B. Seelye's patent medicine company was known across the country. The original Seelye home and laboratory have been completely restored. C.L. Brown founded United Telephone Company, which later became Sprint. And President Dwight D. Eisenhower grew to manhood with his five brothers in Abilene. First-class museums showcase the lives of these men.

Abilene has come to be known as the Greyhound Capitol of the World. The Greyhound Hall of Fame and National Greyhound Association headquarters are both located in the Abilene area. Greyhound kennels contribute to the area economy.

House Tourism
2-17-98
Attachment 9

Abilene is home to Kansas' only year-round Professional Regional Theatre Company, the Great Plains Theatre Festival, located in the beautiful Tietjens Center for the Performing Arts. Abilene is also home to the new Kansas Sports Hall of Fame.

Each year, thousands of visitors from around the world travel to Abilene to tour museums, attractions and mansions in the hometown of President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Abilene has many antique shops, and Bed and Breakfasts to add to its uniqueness and attractiveness.

The Abilene Area Chamber of Commerce is developing a website on the Internet. The Abilene Area Chamber of Commerce Internet site may be accessed via the world-wide-web at www.abileneks.com.

Persons accessing the Abilene Area Chamber of Commerce website will be able to research information about Abilene; get directions to Abilene and its many attractions; and even make dining and lodging arrangements - all from a personal computer.

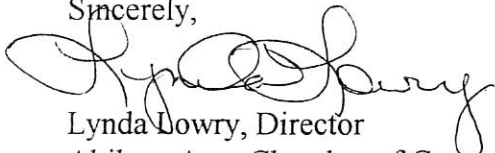
One of the most exciting aspects of the Chamber website will be the "Shop Abilene" virtual storefront. This section will be dedicated to information about the products and services offered by members of the Chamber of Commerce. By using the "Shop Abilene" feature on the Chamber website, someone as far away as our Sister City, Minori, Japan, may order a product made right here in Abilene.

In order to take full advantage of the millions of people who use the Internet for business and research, the Abilene Chamber website will be linked to all major Internet search engines.

The Abilene Area Chamber of Commerce website is just one more example of the dedication of the Chamber to promote Abilene to people around the world - today, and into the 21st century.

It is our hope this project will allow many more visitors to experience Abilene's rich history.

Sincerely,



Lynda Dowry, Director
Abilene Area Chamber of Commerce

Honorable Representative Barbara Allen
Chairperson, Committee on Tourism
HB2899

We have letters of support from several surrounding communities including Manhattan, Wamego, Chapman, and Milford. Also included are letters of support from the Milford Lake Association, Geary County Fish & Game Association, and Kansas Wildscape. I am not going to read these to you, however, I would like to point out one particular statistic:

Communities close to Milford Lake are seeing increases in tourism. Fifteen years ago, Wamego could account for less than 1,000 tourist, last year the community hosted 87,000.

The exciting thing is the lake resort, however, I have been approached by several Kansas manufactures who, if the resort is placed at Milford Lake, would commit to marketing their boats, campers, and sporting goods equipment in an adjacent retail outlet facility. Also, I am in contact with a gentleman from Missouri who owns a large Antique Car Collection in a 150,000 square foot facility. He is excited about the possibility of the lake resort being here, along with the other surrounding tourist attractions and is strongly interested in opening a car museum here in conjunction with the other operation.

The City of Junction City and Geary County, as you know, have been very aggressive with industrial development over the last few years. Even though we can't say today what incentives may be offered, we promise you we will give it the same intensity.

House Tourism
2-17-98
Attachment 10



Wamego Area Chamber of Commerce/Mainstreet

P.O. Box 34

Wamego, Kansas 66547

Phone 785-456-7849

February 10, 1998

Representative Barbara Allen, Chairperson
Committee On Tourism
House of Representatives
State Capitol Building

Dear Representative Allen,

It has been brought to our attention that consideration is being made for development of a Milford Lake Resort. This area has become very aware of the importance of tourism for the vitality and economics of the communities. Several years ago we formed a Flint Hills Task Force that consists of Riley, Geary and Pottawatomie Counties. One of their top priorities was tourism.

As we bring more people into to the area we will need more places, and types of places for them to stay. Surveys show that families are now traveling to the small communities and recreational areas for their vacations. A few of the Communities that are close to the Milford Lake that are seeing an increase in tourism are Council Grove, Wakefield, Chapman, Junction City, Herrington, Manhattan and Wamego. Fifteen years ago, Wamego could account for less than 1000 tourist, last year the community hosted 87,000 tourist.

We feel this project would be of great benefit to the Lake and the surrounding Communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this project.

Rosemary Crilly

Executive Director
Chamber of Commerce/Mainstreet

House Tourism
2-17-98
Attachment 11

CITY OF MILFORD
Post Office Box O
MILFORD, KANSAS 66514
Phone 913/463-5490



CITY OF MILFORD - OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

P.O. Box 199
Milford, Kansas 66514-0199

December 10, 1997

To Whom It May Concern,

THE CITY OF MILFORD, KANSAS IS ONE HUNDRED PERCENT IN FAVOR OF THE LOCATION OF A "RESORT TYPE OPERATION" ON MILFORD LAKE, KANSAS.

FURTHER, THE CITY OF MILFORD BELIEVES THAT THE "BEST" LOCATION FOR THIS RESORT IS JUST TO THE SOUTH OF THE CITY OF MILFORD ADJACENT OR ENCOMPASSING THE AREA KNOWN AS "FARNUM CREEK."

THE SECOND PROPERTY THAT THE CITY FEELS WOULD BE SUITABLE IS THE PROPERTY BETWEEN HIGHWAY US 77 AND THE INLET TO THE "YACHT CLUB BASIN."

THE CITY OF MILFORD WOULD ALSO RECOMMEND THE AREA JUST TO THE WEST OF THE PRESENT MILFORD CEMETERY AND ENCOMPASSING THE LAND JUST TO THE NORTH OF THE CITY OFFICE BUILDING IN MILFORD.

THE CITY OF MILFORD WOULD ALSO LIKE TO REMIND ALL PARTIES READING THIS AFIRMATION THAT:

"THE CITY OF MILFORD CAN PROVIDE NATURAL GAS, WATER AND MANY OTHER SERVICES FROM ITS FACILITIES WITHIN A THREE MILE RADIUS OF THE CITY OF MILFORD."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Morris M. Greenwood".

Morris M. "MO" Greenwood
Mayor

mmg/mmg
Enclosure: 1

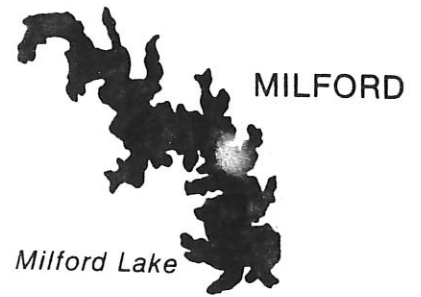
cc: City Clerk of the City of Milford - Citizen Concern File

"City of Beautiful Sunsets"

House Tourism
2-17-98

Attachment 12

CITY OF MILFORD
Post Office Box O
MILFORD, KANSAS 66514
Phone 913/463-5490



CITY OF MILFORD - OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

**P.O. Box 199
Milford, Kansas 66514-0199**

December 10, 1997

To Whom It May Concern,

THE CITY OF MILFORD, KANSAS IS IN FAVOR OF THE "WETLANDS PROJECT" THAT IS ENVISIONED FOR AND ON MILFORD LAKE, KANSAS.

THE CITY OF MILFORD BELIEVES THAT THIS PROJECT WILL GREATLY ENHANCE THE "QUALITY OF LIFE" FOR THE CITIZENS LOCATED WITHIN THE CONFINES OF MILFORD LAKE AS WELL AS THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF KANSAS AND THOSE MANY VISITORS FROM OTHER AREAS THAT WILL AVAIL THEMSELVES OF SUCH AN ATTRACTION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Morris M. Greenwood".

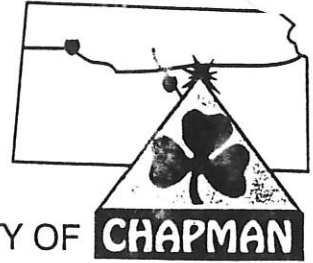
**Morris M. "MO" Greenwood
Mayor**

**mmg/mmg
Enclosure: 1**

cc: City Clerk of the City of Milford - Citizen Concern File

"City of Beautiful Sunsets"

Attachment 12-2



CITY OF **CHAPMAN**

402 N. Marshall

P.O. Box 321

Chapman, KS 67431

City Office (785) 922-6582

November 18, 1997

Barbara Allen, Chr. Spec. Com. Tourism
8136 Rosewood Dr.
Prairie Village, Ks. 66207

Dear Ms. Allen;

It is our understanding that consideration is being made for development of a Milford Lake Resort and that it would possibly be located on the south side of the Lake. The City of Chapman is situated south and west of the proposed location, accordingly the development would be very beneficial to us. Presently, I do not know of any resorts in this area of Kansas or places similar to cabins for people to stay close by.

In terms of offering benefits to this project Chapman offers a 9-hole municipal golf course and a ball complex which both allow for a lot of play. Summer activities are many in which there is a lot of interest. Our most recent development will be located North of the City and it is the Kansas Racing Museum which when completed will include an area for jogging and walking. Walking trail paths from the Museum will allow for you to walk and view the area of the historical Butterfield Stagecoach Line and a walk thru the downtown area where our businesses are located.

Chapman is a service based community and this project development will enhance benefits mutually. Most recently Chapman has proceeded with new development and this proposed Milford Lake Resort would be great for Chapman and also with the development and enhancement for the State of Kansas.

Sincerely,

Marietta Lucas

Certified Municipal Clerk

cc: Alex Kotoyantz

House Tourism
2-17-98

Attachment 13



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, FORT RILEY
FORT RILEY, KANSAS 66442-5000

January 22, 1998

Public Affairs Office

Mr. Alexander A. Kotoyantz
1015 West Ninth Street
Junction City, Kansas 66441

Dear Mr. Kotoyantz:

This letter is in response to your request for information on tourism at Fort Riley during 1997.

Fort Riley has been an active military installation since October 1852 and boasts a number of tourist attractions that include the United State Army's Cavalry Museum, the Fort Riley Regimental Museum, the Custer House, the First Territorial Capitol of Kansas, the Trolley Station and the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard's stables. The Main Post's Historic District features over 200 limestone homes and military buildings in addition to its numerous military monuments and memorials.

Our Community Relations Office works in conjunction with volunteers from the Fort Riley Historical and Archaeological Society and post staff sections to provide driving and walking tours of the fort. Some of the popular tourists attractions hosted throughout the year at Fort Riley include the Apple Days Festival, the Historic Homes Tour, Halloween's popular Ghost Tour, the Prairie Christmas Tour, the Officers Wives Club's Arts and Crafts Fair, as well as the First Territorial Capitol's Pioneer Trade Fair and Territorial Days.

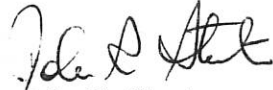
With two month's advance notice, this office can, and often does, arrange historic demonstrations for visitors to include cavalry saber and pistol drill demonstrations by the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard as well as firing demonstrations by the Civil War era Artillery Half Section and the Revolutionary War era artillery piece that we affectionately call "Old Thunder."

Based on information provided to this office by the post's museum system, Fort Riley hosted over 5,100 tours of various sizes in 1997 with a total number of just over 45,600 visitors.

House Tourism
2-17-98
Attachment 14

If you require additional data please do not hesitate to contact me or my assistant, Mr. Scott Price, the Fort Riley Community Relations Officer at (785) 239-2253 or 239-6727 respectively.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Stauter".

John R. Stauter
Major, U.S. Army
Public Affairs Officer

Milford Lake Association
5120 W K-244
Junction City, KS 66441
December 15, 1997

Alex Kotoyantz
1015 W. 9th
Junction City, Kansas 66441

Alex Kotoyantz,

Regarding the current study of tourism in Kansas (H.B. 2350) the Milford Lake Association supports the concept of developing a lake resort in Kansas. At the same time the association considers Milford Lake, specifically the Milford State Park, to be an excellent choice for a lake resort.

Milford Lake and the Milford State Park has many of the suggested needs for a lake resort. The lake is centrally located in the state with easy access from two major highways, I-70 and US-77. Two marinas are in operation at the lake, one in the state park and one in Rollings Hills Park.

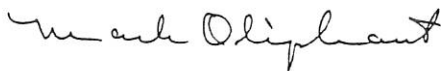
Locations of interest to tourists are firmly established in the area. The Milford Fish Hatchery, Milford Nature Center and Kansas Landscape Arboretum are nearby. The Eisenhower Center and Fort Riley, both major tourist attractions, are a short drive. Rolling Meadows Golf Course is close to the state park.

Construction of a lake resort in Milford State Park would benefit present and future users of the park and entire lake area.

At the present time area businessmen, Kansas Wildscape Foundation and the Milford Lake Association are progressively seeking the establishment of a wetlands at the north end of Milford Lake. The establishment of the Milford Lake Wetlands Habitat Restoration Project will draw visitors year-round, and will be the second largest wetlands in Kansas.

Representatives from towns surrounding Milford Lake, Clay Center, Wakefield, Milford, Junction City, Chapman and Abilene, have been actively promoting the area through the Milford Lake Association since lake construction in the late 1960's.

Sincerely,



Mark Oliphant
president
Milford Lake Association

cc: Rep. B. Allen; Sen. B. Vidricksen; Rep. S. Lloyd

House Tourism
2-17-98

Attachment 15

Geary County Convention & Visitors Bureau

P.O. Box 1846 Junction City, Kansas 66441-6846
(785) 238-2885/2846 (800) 528-2489 fax: (785) 238-2313

December 5, 1997

1998 Legislative Session
Committee on Tourism
Representative Barbara Allen

This letter is submitted by the Geary County Convention and Visitors Bureau in support and endorsement of the feasibility study being conducted for a Kansas lake resort. The bureau encourages your favorable consideration to select Milford Lake as the site for the lake resort.


Milford Lake is the ideal location for the resort. Our positive resources include:

- Central location in the State of Kansas adjacent to Hwy 77 and five minutes away from Interstate 70
- Approximately two hours away from a major metropolitan city (Kansas City & Wichita)
- 25 minutes away from the homes of Kansas State University and Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Museum
- Largest blue water lake in Kansas with 163 miles of shoreline and 16,000 acres of water surface
- Over 80,000 acres of public hunting grounds are available on Ft. Riley and the Milford Lake area
- Home to a state of the art Fish Hatchery and Nature Center
- Near by Rolling Meadows Golf Course - rated by Golf Digest as one of the top ten courses in Kansas
- Brand new Riverwalk Nature Trail (5 miles) along the Republican River leading to the lake
- Future development of the 2300 acre Northshore Wetlands Project at Milford Lake
- Nearby historical Ft. Riley with many attractions to include, US Cavalry Museum, Custer House, First Territorial Capitol, Buffalo Corral and more
- Nearby Junction City's attractions: Geary County Historical Museum, Kansas Vietnam Memorial, Opera House, Wetzel's Log Cabin and more

If the state's objective is to draw more visitors through Kansas from surrounding states, the resort should be centrally located. A resort at Milford Lake will benefit Geary County by increasing tourism here as well as in the State of Kansas. The Geary County Convention & Visitors Bureau promotes Milford Lake by attending sportshows out of state (Missouri, Nebraska & Colorado). In cooperation with the U.S. Corps of Engineers and Kansas Wildlife & Parks, the Geary County CVB assisted in the development and printing of a Milford Lake Fish and Wildlife Resources brochure - a first of its kind in the state.

We are proud to have Milford Lake in our backyard and encourage your favorable consideration in reviewing the resort feasibility study. If any of the committee members should have any questions, please feel free to give me a call at (800) 528-2489 or (785) 238-2391.

Sincerely,


James Nixon
Chairman

House Tourism
2-17-98
Attachment 16



January 19, 1998

Honorable Ben E. Vidricksen
Chairman, Senate Tourism Committee
143-N
Statehouse
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Sen. Vidricksen:

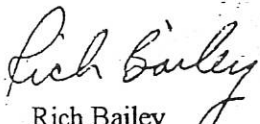
I am writing to offer unequivocal support for the Milford Lake Wetlands Habitat Restoration Project which is now in the fund raising stage. Upon completion in the year 2001, this estimated \$5 million endeavor will restore approximately 2,300 acres to wetlands at the north end of Milford Lake near the city of Wakefield.

This project will create the second largest wetlands in the state of Kansas and be suitable for usage by waterfowl and shorebird populations as a migratory stop-over and a production area. In addition, it would provide additional habitat for furbearer, game and non-game wildlife species associated with wetland habitat types and restore a high-quality habitat suitable for game and non-game fish spawning and nursery areas. Consequently, we feel the wetlands will provide significant opportunities for hunters, anglers, bird watchers, hikers, nature photographers, canoeists, and other outdoor enthusiasts. The economic impact with a planned influx of visitors on the surrounding cities to this project including Wakefield, Clay Center, Milford, Junction City and others should be considerable. It is anticipated that tens of millions of dollars will be spent by visitors to the wetlands over the next generation including such purchases or services as lodging, food, gasoline, beverages, etc. Additional economic stimulus will come from purchase of such durable goods as binoculars, hunting and fishing equipment and licenses, hiking shoes, clothing, bird manuals and other related items.

The KANSAS WILDSCAPE Foundation has undertaken the responsibility of raising the non-federal funding of up to \$1.25 million needed to develop the Milford Wetlands Project. We are currently involved in the private fund raising process and are experiencing considerable interest from potential funding prospects. Again, WILDSCAPE wholeheartedly endorses the Milford Wetlands Restoration effort as a major boon to the tourism industry in the state of Kansas

If you need further information about this exciting project, please call me at (785) 843-9453.

Sincerely,


Rich Bailey
Executive Director

cc. Alex Kotoyantz

House Tourism
2-17-98
Attachment 17



February 13, 1998

Ms. Barbara Allen
Chairperson, Tourism Committee
Kansas House of Representatives
7300 W. 110th, Suite 260
Overland Park, KS 66210

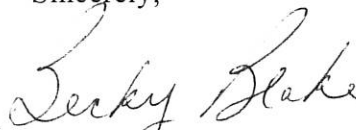
Dear Representative Allen:

The Manhattan Convention & Visitors Bureau supports the concept of developing a lake resort in Kansas. We further believe Milford Lake is an excellent choice for such development.

A resort at Milford Lake fits well into the overall tourism product that this region has to offer. The scenic splendor of the Flint Hills will be a perfect backdrop for this project and is unmatched in any area of Kansas. The future Colbert Hills golf development, regional Prairie Center, Kansas State University, Tuttle Creek Lake, Konza Prairie, historic trails and Fort Riley to name a few, will all complement the resort and provide a vast array of entertainment opportunities for guests. The location of this region will also provide a unique opportunity to draw from the more heavily populated areas to the east, western Kansas and Nebraska where outdoor recreation development is scarce.

Thank you for your consideration. It is our pleasure to join with our partners in this region to support resort development at Milford Lake.

Sincerely,


Becky Blake
Director

Manhattan Chamber of Commerce
555 Poyntz Avenue, Suite 290
P.O. Box 988
Manhattan, Kansas 66502
913-776-8829
913-776-0679 fax
800-759-0134 outside Manhattan

House Tourism
2-17-98
Attachment 18



Geary County Fish & Game Ass'n Inc.

Junction City, Kansas 66441 PO Box 631

Representative Barbara Allen:

*** GEARY COUNTY FISH & GAME ASSOCIATION is recognized as an outstanding Sportsmen's group in the State of Kansas. It has a long history of effective Conservation and Outdoor Education activities, and its members are frequently called upon to assist with projects and legislation at the state level.

***GCF&GA is affiliated with the Kansas Wildlife Federation and works in cooperation with the Kansas Wildlife & Parks in improving wildlife and fish habitat in the Geary county area.

***GCF&GA maintains a 75 acre facility on the southern end of Milford Lake, called "Sportsmen's Acres". This site has a 40' x 50' metal club building with kitchen facilities, rest rooms & spacious meeting area. Outside, are picnic tables, three trap houses, sporting clay, archery range, graveled parking, and plenty room for other outdoor activities.

+++EVENTS DURING THE YEAR+++

Wildlife Habitat Improvement, Wild Game Feed, Geary State Lake Cleanup, Trap Leagues, Fish Fry, Hunter Education Classes, Observe National Hunting & Fishing Day, Turkey Shoots, Chili Feed, Sponsor Environmental Education Enhancemant (Triple EEE) Day's for all 5th Grade Students of USD # 475 and Archery Shoots throughout the year.

++CLUB ACTIVITIES++

- +++Publishes a monthly newsletter which keeps members abreast of current activities and accomplishments.
- +++Holds meetings the second Monday of each month at 7:30 PM. These meetings feature programs with guest speakers on outdoor topics and current local hunting and fishing reports.
- +++Hosts annual Fish, Wild Game & Chili feeds. These are provided by members free to show appreciation of public support.
- +++Conducts various wildlife habitat improvement projects, such as fish shelters and brush pile construction.
- +++Conducts a long-standing and highly successful Hunter Education Program, which has certified several thousand students. These classes are held at "Sportsmen's Acres" and provide instruction's on handling and shooting of muzzle loaders and shot guns, conservation, ammunition safety, survival, first-aid and related subjects.
- +++Sponsors Trap & Sporting Clay Leagues which run from March to October.
- +++Has the location and resources to provide almost any outdoor activity.

The club would support the Milford Lake Resort.

New Geary in Sec

House Tourism

2-17-98

Attachment 19