

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL
300 S.W. TENTH AVENUE
TOPEKA, KS 66612
(785) 296-7636
don.hineman@house.ks.gov



DISTRICT OFFICE
116 S. LONGHORN ROAD
DIGHTON, KS 67839
(620) 397-2504

DON HINEMAN
118TH DISTRICT

Testimony in Support of SB 356
Thursday, April 26
House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Good afternoon Chairman Brunk and members of the committee, and thank you for allowing me to testify before you today. I appear in support of SB 356, which in its amended form recognizes that there is a very real difference between commercial carnivals and home-owned carnivals. The differences include how frequently the carnival rides are used and how they are operated. SB 356 represents an acknowledgement of that fact, and proposes a solution to the question of how best to regulate home-owned carnivals. It protects the safety of carnival patrons without burdening the home-owned carnivals with expensive regulations that would threaten their continued existence.

In my eight-county legislative district, six of the counties own and operate home-owned carnivals. They first came into being when local fair boards found that they could no longer attract commercial companies to come to such small fair venues. The solution was to develop home-owned carnivals, and they have become a source of great local pride. Without exception, they have had the effect of rejuvenating the local county fairs, and it is common for "county fair week" to become a highlight of the community calendar, with many former residents coming home to share the experience with their family and former neighbors. As the younger generation rides the rides and the parents and grandparents operate the rides, everyone has a great time and the sense of community is strengthened.

I want to thank everyone who was involved in the development of SB 356 and I am grateful that such a reasonable solution has been the result.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Hineman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

House Federal & State Affairs

Date: 4-26-12

Attachment # 2