

TESTIMONY SB339
Senate Committee on Taxation
Black Jack Battlefield Trust
February 13, 2012

The Black Jack Battlefield and Nature Park is one of the premiere historic sites in Kansas. It is managed by the Black Jack Battlefield Trust, an all-volunteer board dedicated to preserving, interpreting, and maintaining this nationally significant historic site. The Trust is a 501(c)3 non-profit that receives no direct monetary support from the state; the only source of funding to support the work of the Trust comes from grants and private contributions.

Historic sites like Black Jack bring considerable economic benefit to the state through heritage tourism, while providing the citizens of the state educational, cultural, social, and recreational opportunities. A project that we are currently undertaking is the rehabilitation of an 1890's farmhouse that will be used as an interpretive center for the battlefield and the farmstead. Without the ability to augment our grant and private fundraising capacities with tax credits, we will be severely handicapped in our effort to raise sufficient funds to complete the project in a reasonable amount of time.

If the tax credits are no longer available to non-profits like Black Jack, their ability to preserve and maintain their facilities will be severely curtailed. You will receive testimony from others who will be able to point to successful projects that have been financed under large corporate umbrellas, but please consider that there are far-reaching unintended consequences to taking this tool away from other entities that provide a meaningful benefit to Kansas.

Respectfully,

Carol von Tersch
Past-President
Black Jack Battlefield Trust

Sn. Assmnt & Tax
2-15-12

Attachment # 32