



TESTIMONY

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SENATE BILL 237

SENATE BILL 241

SENATE BILL 319

The Kansas City Kansas Area Chamber of Commerce is very excited about the opening of the new Hollywood Casino the day after tomorrow. We know it has already given 1,000 people new jobs in the state of Kansas and will bring needed revenues to the state and our local community, both directly and indirectly.

What we are not excited about is the consideration of Senate Bills 237, 241, and 319 in this committee. We are very concerned that if any of these bills are passed out of committee, we will be back discussing casino gaming for years to come and potentially harm our newest businesses in the state –Kansas Star Casino in Mulvane and the Hollywood Casino in Wyandotte County, along with the Boot Hill Casino in Dodge City. These are businesses that have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in these new operations. They have collectively hired over 2,000 employees who are looking forward to having secure jobs to support their families. These casinos also buy goods and services to operate these 24/7 facilities from businesses throughout our state. This only adds to the benefits that were given to the state through Senate Bill 66 passed in 2007.

While I wish The Woodlands in Wyandotte County was now open under that same legislation, they are not, even though they were involved in the adoption of Senate Bill 66 in 2007. Since The Woodlands closing in 2009, we've not heard from them or their interest in re-opening the facility as a gaming facility. We do, however, have the Hollywood Casino who has worked under the guidelines of Senate Bill 66.

Nineteen years ago tomorrow was my first day of work at the KCK Chamber and it was spent in Topeka lobbying state legislators to pass expanded gaming. Until 2007, I witnessed and read about various iterations of gaming laws as well as attempts to not allow expanded gaming in Kansas. All were well meaning to serve the interests of the constituents or coalition of constituents pushing a particular version of a bill.

Today, you are considering three different bills to re-open expanded gaming in Kansas. The KCK Chamber asks you not pass these bills out of committee as once this question is re-opened we could go through at least another fourteen years of confusion and competing interests. One of the aspects of our stagnant economy is the uncertainty in the business world due to government changing the rules and regulations. Please do not do that to our three of our newest and largest businesses and employers in the state of Kansas who are and will be providing much needed state and local revenues as well as jobs.

Thank you for your consideration.