

Dear Senator Brungardt and members of the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee,

My name is Mark Hardison and I reside in Mulvane, Kansas, now home to the Kansas Star Casino and Event Center. I appreciate having the opportunity to present testimony for your committee's consideration in regard to the various measures you have under consideration.

My message is simple and straight forward: PLEASE OPPOSE ALL LEGISLATION AND AMENDMENTS WHICH THREATEN THE VIABILITY OF THE KANSAS STAR CASINO THAT WE HAVE FOUGHT FOR YEARS TO BRING TO SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS!

Specifically, I hope you and your colleagues will not adopt the provisions in SB 319 that allow for a "re-vote" by Sedgwick County to allow for slots at the racetrack. This provision, along with changing the rules on smoking on the gaming floor that's contained in HB 2340, would stand in the way of our wonderful new facility being as successful as possible. Our facility just opened approximately one month ago and it would be short-sighted for the state to now change the rules of operation for the Kansas Star. Investments and plans were made for this incredible facility based on important market conditions and to now drastically change those seems patently unfair and could hinder further development in our county.

Many of us who worked for years to bring a world-class casino to Mulvane are engaged in agriculture. It is hard to express the excitement we experienced when we learned that not only are we home to a tremendous gaming facility, but also will be enjoying all of the benefits associated with the equestrian center being developed. This equestrian center will be an enormous benefit to the many Kansans who support equestrian events. No longer will these events have to take place in Oklahoma or other states where arenas and facilities are large enough to accommodate the thousands of participants.

And for those of us who work in agriculture, we are very much looking forward to the substantial economic activity associated with the Kansas Star's equestrian center. From increased feed production to the "processing" of by-products to fertilize our crops, we know that this facility will be a true economic boost to Kansas agribusiness.

Thank you for your consideration.

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