



TESTIMONY

By

BRUCE CHRISTENSON

Before the

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Regarding HB 2537

March 17, 2016

Dear Chair Ryckman and Members of the Committee:

I am Bruce Christenson, lead investor and developer of Kansas Crossing Casino and Hotel ("Kansas Crossing"), the Lottery Gaming Facility Manager for the Southeast Gaming Zone in Pittsburg, Kansas. Like the other Lottery Gaming Facility Managers, Kansas Crossing does not oppose resumption of parimutuel horse and dog racing in Kansas. However, we do oppose efforts to change a law the track operators agreed to in 2007 in an attempt to now tilt the law heavily in their favor.

When Camptown Racetrack closed more than a decade and a half ago, the pari-mutuel track was losing an estimated \$30,000 per week. In 2007, supporters of expanded gaming at racetracks wrote the parimutuel sections of SB 66 including the tax rates, lobbied for the placement of slot machines at their racetracks and supported KELA's passage. Now they want even more favorable tax rates and provisions, including the potential to eliminate parimutuel racing entirely at the tracks. Kansas Crossing does not support these efforts, and believes that ultimately the goal of those supporting the bill is to create a slot parlor at Camptown Racetrack.

Kansas Crossing is in the process of developing an 80 million dollar destination entertainment facility just a few miles from the long closed Camptown Racetrack. To date, I have spent 11 million dollars in developing Kansas Crossing. I do not believe the operators who closed Camptown Racetrack should be allowed to change the rules after we've expended millions in committing to Southeast Kansas. Our 80 million dollar development is based, in part, on the State complying with the current provisions of KELA. Business owners wanting to invest in Kansas require legal and regulatory certainty in making decisions on where to place capital. The proposed changes to KELA send a terrible message to investors nationwide who rely on Kansas' tradition of fair play and a level playing field in making investment decisions.

We agree with the Kansas Star's position that the operation of two state-owned gaming facilities in close proximity will not result in increased revenues or jobs to the State of Kansas, but rather



will transfer a portion of the existing revenues and jobs from one location (Kansas Crossing) to Camptown without any significant net gain.

Finally, we also agree with the other Lottery Gaming Facility Managers that the penalty clause under KELA and our management contracts require an immediate refund of all privilege fees paid plus 10% interest compounded annually if a re-vote is permitted on the Wichita Greyhound Park.

While Kansas Crossing does not oppose the parimutuel racing industry in Kansas, it does expect all players comply with existing law. Thank you for your time and consideration in this important matter.