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**Testimony in Opposition to HB 2276
House Federal and State Affairs Committee
Presented Orally by Ronald R. Hein
on behalf of
Motion Picture Association of America
March 22, 2017**

Mister Chairman, Members of the Committee:

My name is Ron Hein, and I am legislative counsel for the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), the trade association representing the nation's leading producers and distributors of motion pictures on film, home video, the Internet, satellite, cable, subscription and over-the-air television broadcast. MPAA member companies include: Buena Vista Pictures Distribution (The Walt Disney Company); Paramount Pictures Corporation; Sony Pictures Entertainment; Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation; Universal City Studios LLP; and Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.

The Motion Picture Association of America opposes HB 2276 as it was introduced, but with an amendment as proposed, the MPAA would be neutral on this legislation.

A copy of the proposed balloon amendment is attached to my testimony, and is also set out in the statement of the MPAA which is attached.

For the reasons set out in the attached statement, on behalf of the MPAA, I would urge the adoption of the proposed amendment.

Thank you for permitting me to submit this testimony and I would be happy to yield to any questions.

1 regulated animal through the state shall be exempt from this act, with the
 2 exceptions of K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 32-1302(b) and 32-1306(d) and (f), and
 3 amendments thereto, if the transit time is not more than 48 hours, the
 4 dangerous regulated animal is not exhibited and the dangerous regulated
 5 animal is maintained at all times in a species-appropriate cage or other
 6 travel container. Such transporters shall provide written notice of the
 7 transport to the state veterinarian at least 72 hours prior to entering the
 8 state, identifying the number and type of dangerous regulated animals that
 9 will be transported. This notification is in addition to any veterinary
 10 certificate or other permits required by state, local or federal law.

11 (f) Law enforcement officers shall be exempt from this act for
 12 purposes of enforcement.

13 (g) Duly incorporated nonprofit animal protection organizations,
 14 such as humane societies and animal shelters, temporarily housing a
 15 dangerous regulated animal at the written request of law enforcement
 16 officers acting under the authority of this act shall be exempt from this act.

17 Sec. 9. K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 32-1310 is hereby amended to read as
 18 follows: 32-1310. (a) Annually, on or before April 1, a local animal control
 19 authority shall report to the secretary of wildlife, parks and tourism on
 20 dangerous regulated animals registered with the local animal control
 21 authority during the preceding calendar year. The report shall include all
 22 registration information submitted to the local animal control authority
 23 under subsection (b) of K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 32-1303(b), and amendments
 24 thereto, and information on enforcement actions taken under this act.

25 (b) It shall be a violation of this act for a person who does not own
 26 the dangerous regulated animal, to care for, have custody or control of
 27 such animal unless such person is an employee of the person who owns the
 28 dangerous regulated animal and is a registered designated handler. Any
 29 such person applying for a designated handler registration shall file an
 30 application on a form prescribed by the local animal control authority.
 31 Application for such registration shall be accompanied by an application
 32 fee not exceeding \$25. If the local animal control authority finds the
 33 applicant to be qualified to be a registered designated handler after
 34 meeting the training, experience and ability requirements determined by
 35 the secretary of wildlife, parks and tourism, the local animal control
 36 authority shall may issue a designated handler registration which that shall
 37 expire at the end of the calendar year.

38 (c) The secretary of wildlife, parks and tourism shall provide
 39 educational training programs for the local animal control authority
 40 concerning the provisions of this act and the handling of dangerous
 41 regulated animals.

42 (d) The secretary of wildlife, parks and tourism shall adopt rules and
 43 regulations:

(h) A motion picture or television production company employing
 or contracting with a dealer or exhibitor licensed under Section
 2133 of the federal Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2133) or with a
 carrier, intermediate handler, or unlicensed exhibitor registered
 under Section 2136 of that Act (7 U.S.C. 2136) for the
 transportation, purchase, exhibition, or use of animals
 in its motion picture or television production.



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Requested Amendment – Kansas House Bill 2276

The Motion Picture Association of America, Inc. (MPAA) and its member companies¹, which are the largest producers and distributors of motion pictures in the U.S., respectfully request an amendment to exempt motion picture and television productions from House Bill 2276, which would prohibit the possession of “dangerous regulated animals” in Kansas.

If enacted, these bills would prevent performances by animals such as lions, tigers, primates, and wolves in motion picture and television productions in Kansas, even when the animal is accompanied by a handler who holds the appropriate permits from the United States Department of Agriculture. If a motion picture or television script calls for the depiction of one of these animals, that production will necessarily have to film at least part of the project in another state.

As you are no doubt aware, motion pictures and television shows have told countless stories about animals, with animals playing both leading and supporting roles. MPAA member companies take seriously their obligation to handle animals safely and responsibly.

MPAA urges that H.B. 2276 be amended to allow for the use of animals in motion picture and television productions. If the language below were amended into the bill, MPAA would be able to take a neutral position on the legislation.

Sec. 8. K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 32-1308

(h) motion picture or television production company employing or contracting with a dealer or exhibitor licensed under Section 2133 of the federal Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2133) or with a carrier, intermediate handler, or unlicensed exhibitor registered under Section 2136 of that Act (7 U.S.C. 2136) for the

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transportation, purchase, exhibition, or use of animals in its motion picture or television production.

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