

**Andrew John Evans, Evans Midland Empire Shows, Inc.
House Bill No. 2389 - An Act Concerning Amusement Rides
Opponent**

Good morning. I am Andrew Evans, owner of Evans Midland Empire Shows. I appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on this important discussion regarding safety in the amusement industry. I have been in the amusement industry my entire life and am a fourth-generation carnival owner. Amusement ride safety is of the utmost importance to me, my family, our business, and the patrons we serve. I am a NAARSO (National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials) certified Level 1 Inspector and my father is on the Missouri Board of Amusement Ride Safety which has, over the years, played a critical role in helping formulate safety regulations for the State of Missouri. I am here today to ask you to reject Bill No. 2389 as it is currently written.

I am a strong supporter of robust safety regulations in the state of Kansas just as I am in the state of Missouri. I believe a qualified inspector should be required to have NAARSO Level 1 certification which would meet with the standards of other states throughout the country. Having consistently completed the requisite amount of training to be certified as a NAARSO Level 1 official combined with my 20+ years of experience working in the industry, I know first-hand what is required to properly inspect the safety of an amusement ride.

My primary concern with Bill No. 2389 lies within Section 5. It states, and I quote, "An amusement ride erected at a temporary location in this state shall be inspected by a qualified inspector upon reassembly prior to use by a patron." The weekly inspection of every ride for every carnival or rental company throughout the state of Kansas would create an abundant work load for the limited number of qualified inspectors. The concern is that many businesses would not be able to open or operate due to the time restraint placed on the inspectors. The already existing challenge of hiring inspectors would now be accompanied by the high cost of the permits. The proposed Bill and its current wording seemingly mandates temporary location permits, which would cost \$100 per permit, per ride, per inspection. That would create an unforeseen accumulative expense that would jeopardize the ability for small businesses like mine and so many others to function, leading to the elimination of jobs and tax revenue generated at the local level. The extra expense could cause some carnivals to abandon work in small towns and county fairs that are so actively looking for quality amusement ride companies.

The proposed bill states it would require the insurance company to foot the bill for the inspections. However, I believe the permit expense should be the responsibility of the amusement ride owner. My recommendation is that the permits be paid for annually, and that amusement rides are required to be inspected annually by a third party NAARSO Level 1 Inspector. I would also support the state of Kansas hiring and training inspectors to run spot inspections on all amusement rides conducted in the state.

I would also like to state in regards to Non-Destructive Testing that we should follow the recommendations of the manufacturer as they understand the full capabilities of a particular ride.

In closing I would like to say that the carnival industry is committed to safety and would like the opportunity to work alongside the Kansas legislature to write a set of regulations that work for all parties, most importantly the thousands of patrons that visit our fairs, festivals and events around this great state.

Thank you,

Andrew Evans
Evans Midland Empire Shows, Inc.