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Testimony to the House Federal & State Affairs Committee
In Support of HB 2389
March 23, 2017

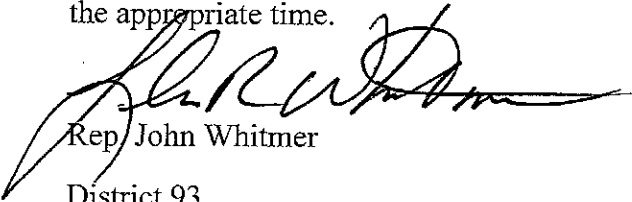
Chairman Barker and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today on HB 2389. I was asked by Chairman Barker and another member of our chamber to consult on this bill because in a past life I spent 10 years working in the amusement and fun equipment industry and I am pleased to have been included in this process. Having worked for the largest provider of company picnics and corporate events in the Midwest it was my hope that I would be able to offer a first-hand industry perspective as the committee worked through the bill.

That being said, as it is currently written I do have some significant concerns about the bill but am grateful to have been invited to work with the revisors, industry experts and other stakeholders to construct a series of amendments which, if adopted, would make 2389 a much-improved bill and one I believe most in the industry would support. These amendments would incorporate the standards from neighboring states as well as commonly accepted industry and national association standards as the Kansas state regulatory standards by which the industry will be held accountable.

Amusement parks, carnival ride providers and fun equipment companies should be subject to state and local governmental codes, requirements and rigorous safety inspections. At the same time, however they shouldn't be subject to overly burdensome regulation that would place them at a competitive disadvantage. I believe HB 2389, if amended, would be a reasonable compromise of both and I look forward to working with the committee on the bill and the amendments.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify this morning. I'd be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.


Rep John Whitmer

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