

TESTIMONY ON HB 2023

**Julia A. Ward
President/Owner
Wayne R Ward Inc.
Greyhound Management Inc
M & J Express Delivery**

**House Taxation Committee
January 19th, 2017**

Chairman and members of the committee, I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you concerning the benefits of the current Kansas tax policy on my specific businesses.

I realize these tax cuts have been unpopular to some but for me, personally, they have allowed me to expand and continue to grow my businesses. Therefore, I would oppose HB 2023.

Specifically, in 2011, M & J Express Delivery, Inc., a FedEx contractor, was running four delivery routes. With the advent of the tax cuts, I was able to add routes throughout the years and are now sending out 10 trucks for our 7 routes. In each of the instances where I added routes, I added to capital equipment by purchasing vehicles and adding to the employee pool by hiring additional drivers.

Wayne R. Ward, Inc., which is my second-generation greyhound racing operation, has expanded as well. We have been in the greyhound business in Kansas for well over 30 years. Without greyhound racing in Kansas, this businesses income generation is concentrated in states such as Arkansas and West Virginia as these tracks have video lottery terminals (VLT's) and have invested in growing their agribusinesses.

While the majority of my greyhound racing business expansion has been outside of Kansas, due to the lack of greyhound racetracks open in Kansas, all of the training and 90% of the raising of all my greyhounds still takes place on my farms in Abilene, Kansas. I have added employees, vehicles and upgraded facilities to maintain the quality of greyhounds' people associate with Wayne R. Ward Inc.

Greyhound Management Inc. is the farm arm of my greyhound business. It is where all greyhounds I raise, whether in another state or in Kansas, are trained. Abilene is the primary location for this business and is where I contribute well over \$1 million to the economy in forms of vet bills, feed bills, employees, vehicles, etc. on an annual basis. The tax cuts the state enacted have allowed me to grow this arm of my business quickly.

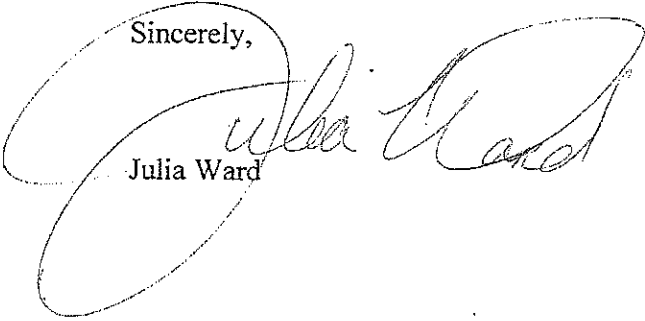
Due to the expansion of all 3 of my businesses, it became necessary a few years ago, to construct a Morton Building to house the new equipment, vehicles, etc. which further added to the economy of our community as well as to the State.

To this end, I would encourage the state to practice good Fiscal policy by not only maintaining the tax cuts but also finding new revenue streams to offset budget deficits.

Again, I want to thank you and I appreciate your time allowing me to appear before you today.

Sincerely,

Julia Ward

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Julia Ward", is written over the printed name. The signature is enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval.