



Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee
Written Testimony in Favor of SB 164
February 20, 2017

Chairman LaTurner and honorable committee members,

I am Bridgette Jobe, President of the Travel Industry Association of Kansas (TIAK) and the Director for Kansas City Kansas Convention and Visitors Bureau. The purpose of TIAK is to speak with one voice for the travel industry in the State of Kansas, promoting and supporting all components of the travel industry and travel development field. We currently have over 175 members. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments in support of SB 164, a bill which proposes to grant authority to local units of government to designate entertainment districts within their communities where the consumption of alcoholic beverages would be allowed.

While current authority does allow for temporary or single use permits for such activity, offering communities the tool to permanently designate an entertainment district will incentivize investment and long-term commitment from businesses and vendors in these areas. Furthermore, it will create additional tourism opportunities for Kansas community events. We do understand there is a House bill, HB 2277, which also proposes to authorize an entertainment district. The members of TIAK encourage this committee and all interested parties to work together to reach a compromise on both the definition and regulation of an entertainment district. By doing so you will afford our Kansas communities another valuable tool to attract visitors.

As the leading organization for tourism in Kansas, TIAK respectfully asks for your support of this initiative and all opportunities that will attract visitors to our state and local communities. Thank you for the opportunity to present comments on behalf of Kansas tourism professionals. If you should need to reach me my email is bridgette@visitKansasCityKS.com.