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Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee

Proponent Testimony SB 228

John Curry, Regal

March 25, 2021

Good afternoon and thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit written testimony in full support of SB 228. This important legislation would allow Kansas movie theatre operators to retain the state sales tax on tickets and concessions from July 2021 to July 2023.

From Main Street to the state's urban centers, movie theatres are business anchors and economic multipliers in the communities they serve. Movie theatres invigorate and revitalize neighborhoods, drive much needed foot traffic to local small businesses, foster cultural vibrancy, and create employment opportunities in communities across the state where jobs can be difficult to find.

Regal proudly operates six movie theatres in Kansas under the brands: *Hollywood, Regal* and *Warren*. Prior to the pandemic, our theaters employed ~520 Kansans and welcomed thousands of guests through our doors. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic and the subsequent economic challenges that followed, we remain closed with the vast majority of our team furloughed. This, of course, has been incredibly painful and we are diligently working toward the safe return of our team members and the reopening of our theatres.

Movie theatre operators of all sizes, including Regal, are experiencing severe financial hardship amid the pandemic. After more than a year of operating costs outpacing plunging revenues, the state's movie theatres are certainly among the hardest-hit industries. We need help to stabilize our industry, get our people back to work, and ensure business continuity after this public health crisis abates. Your support of SB 228 will provide much needed support for our recovery efforts. We have a long journey ahead and with your help, our movie theatres will play an important role in rebuilding the state's economy and continue to bring the shared cultural experience of moviegoing to our communities.

Thank you,

John Curry
Senior Vice President