

State of Kansas
House of Representatives

State Capitol
300 SW 10th St.
Topeka, Kansas 66612
(785) 296-7463
ken.rahjes@house.ks.gov



1798 E 900 Road
Agra, KS 67621
(785) 302-8416

Ken Rahjes
Representative, 110th District

Thank you, Chairman Thomas and committee. I am Ken Rahjes, State Representative from the 110th District. I come before you today in support of S.B. 13. I also come before you not only as a legislator but as Program Director for KBUF radio in Garden City. KBUF is part of the Western Kansas Broadcast Center and owns and operates radio stations in southwest Kansas and possibly soon in other communities in Kansas.

It is appropriate to hold this hearing on broadcasting high school sporting events, as we just completed another successful state basketball tournament, and through conversations and social media post, those who could not be in these gymnasiums or arenas have challenges viewing their favorite team when they were playing.

While I am in support of S.B. 13, I believe in free enterprise and question the role of the legislature in determining what another organization's business model is. But, since a majority of schools who participate in extra curricular activities are public institutions, utilizing state resources, we should find a better way to make these contests available to parents, grandparents and fans of sports.

I began in broadcasting at the age of 15 and at that time, who would have dreamed of one day, we would have the ability to video stream games and matches? But here we are. Several entrepreneurs began years ago streaming these contests but the organization in which schools are a member of decided that when the contests get to their finals, it would go to ONE entity, thus shutting out community broadcasters who have been broadcasting and streaming the games or matches during the season.

I appreciate those who made the investment in equipment and their communities to offer this service and would hope that while S.B. 13 may not be the best answer, it is a start for future discussions. Technology continues to evolve at a rapid pace and the methods we are talking about might not be viable soon.

I would be remiss to not mention one of the best reasons to let others stream, it is the students. Extracurricular activities are an extension of the classroom and a way to learn a skill and quite possibly a future Mitch Holthus, Brian Haney or Ken Rahjes.

Thank you for this opportunity. I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.