

Taxation Committee

When horse racing left Kansas it took citizens, jobs, tourists and income out of the state. This bill will allow for those key ingredients and a successful economy to come back to Kansas.

An overarching trend in tourism is the pursuit of authentic experiences. Visitors are interested in pursuing experiences, including adventure, learning skills, rejuvenation and fulfillment. Visitors are interested in the sense of place, meeting people and experiencing local culture. Over 50% of The Flint Hills has a lifestyle and culture to sell. Eureka Downs sits in the heart of the southern Flint Hills and maintains a historic track. It can once again be part of a bustling tourism industry.

Currently, an average visitor to Kansas spends \$261 per day with an average length of stay of 1.63 days. The majority of visitors travel by car an average of 222 miles, 1-way. Kansas travelers who stay two nights or more are most profitable (travelks.com).

The track is part of a 69-acre property that has the community's attention. The concourse building is slated to become a multiuse community facility, housing a community room upstairs. Eureka's ProRodeo brought in 2,500 people to its Saturday night performance in August 2022. But at the heart of this historic acreage is a horseracing track. By committing to this bill you connect the dots and bring one more reason for people to visit and linger in the tallgrass prairie.

I implore you to consider this bill and its positive economic impact for the state of Kansas.

Heather Fuesz