



Testimony

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**Senate Bill 237
Senate Bill 241
Senate Bill 319
Kansas Expanded Lottery Act Changes**

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Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee**

This is an exciting week for Wyandotte County and the State of Kansas. The \$200-million Hollywood Casino at Kansas Speedway will open for business. An expected 4-million visitors a year will walk through the doors generating an estimated \$220-million a year in revenues for the State, local government and schools.

But before a single customer drops a coin in a slot machine or lays a bet on the blackjack table, SB 237, SB 241 and SB 319 are in play, trying to change the rules under which the Hollywood Casino was built and must operate. These bills propose to change the fundamental financial landscape of the gaming law. It is unfair to the Hollywood Casino and the two other destination casinos to change the rules at this point in the game. From investment levels, to the number of slot machines allowed, all of these bills would restructure the entire gaming landscape in a way which puts the destination casinos at a competitive disadvantage.

Reopening the gaming law also opens the door to other possible changes which could be detrimental to the Unified Government, Mulvane and Dodge City. As you all know, once a law is opened for debate, any and all amendments become relevant.

The Unified Government supports The Woodlands re-opening with a full slate of greyhound and horse racing and slots under terms of the current law. It's interesting that when the expanded gaming law was passed, Governor Kathleen Sebelius held one of the bill signing ceremonies at The Woodlands. Hundreds of people showed up cheering and excited. The owners said the addition of slot machines would save the track. Why isn't that true now? After all, the racing industry was involved in the writing of and passage of the expanded gaming act in 2007. If the current percentages won't work, why did they agree to them?

The Unified Government supports The Woodlands re-opening with greyhound and horse racing and slot machines. It can not support unfair changes in the rules.