

KANSAS STAR CASINO TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 87
Senate Agriculture Committee
February 25, 2013

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee:

I am Richard Klemp, Director of Government Relations for the Kansas Star Casino in Mulvane, Kansas and I appear today to join the Kansas Horse Council in supporting Senate Bill 87.

The Kansas Star Casino's signature non-gaming attraction will be our equestrian events center which when completed will feature 624 indoor, temperature controlled stalls, two outdoor practice arenas as well as our indoor arena which formerly housed our interim casino. The company that designed our facility also designed the equestrian facilities at last year's London Olympic Games.

We decided to build an equestrian center rather than a golf course or some other amenity because of the high degree of horse ownership in Kansas and surrounding states, and because we saw a need for a first class facility that would allow Kansas horse organizations to stay within Kansas for their events as well as hold equestrian and other events that will bring people to Kansas from other states, thus adding to the state and south central Kansas economies, generating new tourism and economic development.

This was one of the main purposes of the Kansas Expanded Lottery Act - to have destination resorts that had non-gaming attractions that would bring visitors to Kansas as well as keep in-state organizations in Kansas.

SB 87 will enhance our ability to showcase Kansas as a premier equestrian events destination and promote the equine economy and interests of numerous Kansas organizations and citizens.

We urge your support and passage of SB 87.

Sincerely,

Richard Klemp
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Senate Agriculture Committee
Date: 2-25-13
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Richard Klemp, KS Star Casino
SB87