



ZOOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
OF AMERICA

March 21, 2017

Honorable John Barker, Chairman  
Federal & State Affairs Committee  
Kansas House of Representatives  
300 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

RE: Memorandum of opposition to HB 2276

Dear Chairman Barker and Members of the House Federal & State Affairs Committee:

With more than sixty accredited members, the Zoological Association of America (ZAA) is the second largest trade association in the zoological sector. We count among our members some of the finest facilities in the United States, including popular tourist destinations like Tanganyika Wildlife Park in Goddard and Wright Park Zoo in Dodge City.

We are grateful that the state recognizes the high standards of our accredited facilities and accords us an exemption from K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 32-1302 prohibitions against acquisition and possession of exotic animals, as have many other jurisdictions. What no other jurisdiction has done, to my knowledge, is to enact a total ban on public contact with all nonhuman primates. This forbids some of the most exhilarating and anthropomorphic behavioral experiences that one can enjoy in a zoological park.

Managed small primate encounters are safe, educational and memorable. Small primates in encounter programs are behaviorally conditioned to interact with guests through positive reinforcement. There are psychological benefits for both primate and guests, but more importantly, there is that facilitated experience which will forever stimulate that child's mind towards a passion for the love of animals, conservation and stewardship of the environment.

Yet language in this legislation at lines 13-16 on page 3 seeks a complete prohibition of contact with all "nonhuman primates", which are added to the list of "dangerous regulated animal" on page 2 at line 10. A suggestion would be to consider delisting primates of the family Lemuridae (Lemurs) and Lorisidae (Loris) and Cebidae (South American Primates).

Please reconsider and discard these amendments to the Kansas law on behalf of our accredited facilities and the thousands of visitors who are much more likely to support needed

conservation efforts here and around the world if they have been able to share space with these endearing animals.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. B. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Alan B Smith  
National Legislative Affairs Director