

SCOTT COUNTY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE INC.

SENATE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Written Only Testimony in Support of Senate Bill #331

(Designation of Little Jerusalem Badlands as State Park, amending K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 32-837 and repealing the existing section)

Scott County Development Committee, Scott City, Kansas

January 29, 2018

Thank you for allowing SCDC to share thoughts on SB331. As the local agency charged with enhancing the overall economic environment for Scott County, Scott County Development Committee believes designating the stunningly beautiful Little Jerusalem Badlands would be economically beneficial to neighboring Scott County, as well as the State of Kansas. SCDC clearly supports Senate Bill #331.

Scott County is already privileged to tout the Historic Lake Scott State Park to western Kansas residents and avid travelers seeking to escape into the hidden jewel of a lake nestled among the rugged chalk bluffs. One could easily predict that promoting the little-known badlands will create a synergy of tourism and economic activity through the trio of major Kansas tourism topographies: Western Vistas Historic Byway, Historic Lake Scott State Park and the proposed Little Jerusalem Badlands State Park.

The partnership between KDWPT and the Nature Conservancy at Smoky Valley Ranch preserves and protects the natural state of Little Jerusalem for the enjoyment of future generations. SCDC supports this partnership wholeheartedly.

We, as leaders of economic and community development, value the efforts of KDWPT that highlight the uniqueness of Kansas through tourism. Sharing this recently-gifted geologic feature with the general public may soon become one of Kansas' finest tourism efforts. Scott County Development Committee applauds this effort.

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