Board of County Commissioners

Sumner County Courthouse Wellington, KS 67152 620-326-5121; 326-3395 Fax 620-326-2116



Steve Warner
1st District
Jim D. Newell
2nd District
Cliff Bales
3rd District

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

April 2, 2018

Chairman Estes and Members of the Committee:

Summer County opposes SB 427 and urges a NO vote on this legislation. Without question this measure will have a negative economic impact on Summer County.

Among other provisions, SB 427 provides for a revote in Sedgwick County for slot machines at Wichita Greyhound Park. This proposed election would blatantly and illegally disregard the binding referendum held on August 7, 2007 when voters defeated questions on a casino and the placement of slot machines in Sedgwick County, including at Wichita Greyhound Park, thus rendering Sedgwick County unable to have gaming prior to July 1, 2032. In contrast, Sumner County voters overwhelmingly approved its referendum.

In reliance on the Sedgwick County defeat of the gaming questions, casino companies applied for the management contract in Sumner County and proposed destination resort projects costing a minimum of \$225 million along with a \$25 million privilege fee. Again, relying on the outcome of Sedgwick County's binding referendum; the Kansas Star Casino won the competition and developed a casino, hotel and event center to serve the entire south central market.

If SB 427 was enacted into law, there would be a negative impact on casino revenues, casino jobs, ancillary entertainment and conventions and purchases from local businesses.

We also note that SB 427 eliminates the 1% of revenue sharing to Sumner County which is contrary to current law.

In conclusion, our reading of the bill reveals numerous violations of the Kansas Expanded Lottery Act, the Kansas and U.S. constitutions as well as the contract between the Kansas Star and Kansas Lottery. Passage of SB 427 would certainly result in protracted litigation and expose the State to significant fiscal jeopardy.

Sumner County asks that you vote against SB 427.

Respectfully,

Board of Sumner County Commissioners

Steve Warner, Chairman

Jim D. Newell, 2nd District

Clifford Bales, 3rd District

ATTEST:

Debra A. Norris, Sumner County Clerk

CC:

Sen. Larry Alley

Rep. Ed Trimmer

Rep. Jesse Burris

Rep. Anita Judd-Jenkins

Rep. Kyle Hoffman