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2018
BOARD OF
DIRECTORS

**Testimony Opposing SB 427 by the Sumner County Economic Development
Commission for April 3, 2018 Hearing in Senate Committee on
Federal and State Affairs**

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Casie Risley
Chairman

Chairman Estes and members of the Committee:

Jane Cole
Vice-Chair

The Sumner County Economic Development Commission opposes SB 427 to expand gaming with slot machines at Wichita Greyhound Park and lower the tax rate on such slot machines.

Julia Strnad
Treasurer

Keith Leddy

The Commission believes that if SB 427 became law it would have a negative impact on the Kansas Star Casino which is Sumner County's largest employer and major tourism and entertainment attraction.

John Cooney

Richard Jack

Kelly Ford

As the organization primarily engaged in working to bring business and industry into Sumner County, we are concerned that SB 427 will send the wrong message to prospective companies looking to relocate or expand in Sumner County or elsewhere in Kansas.

Rick Dolley

Coni Adams

Linda Stinnett

Emily Harding

Sharon Short

Joel Pile

That wrong message is simply that Kansas is an unreliable location because statutes providing for favorable economic development conditions and commitments are likely to be changed or at least threatened with changes that could create an unstable business climate.

STAFF

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Stacy Davis
Executive Director

A case in point from SB 427 is the provision for a revote on slots at the dog track in Sedgwick County. The Kansas Expanded Lottery Act (KELA) provided for counties in the four gaming zones to pass a referendum on gaming to be eligible for casino gaming or slots at tracks.

Linda Brown
Administrative Assistant

Josly Heersche
Receptionist

Because Sedgwick County's referendum in August 2007 saw voters reject a casino and slot machines at the dog track, gaming companies applied for the management contract for projects costing a minimum of \$225 million plus a \$25 million privilege fee. The winning project was the Kansas Star Casino which relied on the observance of the Sedgwick County decision against casino gaming for its initial decision to apply and later to invest \$330 million in Sumner County to build the Kanas Star Casino, hotel and event center.



SCEDC
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If SB 427 became law, the lawfully conducted referendum would be tossed aside. The word would quickly spread that Kansas commitments are subject to change so proceed with caution. Further, the word will spread that litigation to force adherence to even statutory commitments needs to be part of project planning in Kansas.

For the sake of Kansas' reputation for a favorable business climate, we urge a NO vote on SB 427.

Sincerely,

Stacy L. Davis
Executive Director

