



BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY OF BRUCE CHRISTENSON

IN OPPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 2199

February 18, 2021

Chairman Barker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Bruce Christenson. I am a principal of Kansas Crossing Casino, L.C., which manages the Kansas Crossing Casino & Hotel, Pittsburg, Kansas ("Kansas Crossing"). I appreciate the opportunity to share our views regarding sports wagering in the State of Kansas.

Since opening on March 29, 2017, Kansas Crossing has generated over \$26.2 million in gaming revenue for the State of Kansas with more than \$3.5 million being provided to local governments. We have made significant educational and charitable contributions in southeast Kansas and employ approximately 250 individuals.

Kansas Crossing strongly supports sports wagering in this State under the framework established in the Kansas Expanded Lottery Act "KELA". We believe that the four state-owned casinos are in the best position to make sports gaming available to the people of Kansas.

Kansas Crossing opposes HB 2199 for numerous reasons.

First, it discards the regulatory structure established by KELA. The KELA framework provides oversight through both the Kansas Lottery and the Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission and has successfully regulated expanded gaming in Kansas for more than a decade.

Second, HB 2199 would authorize the Kansas Lottery to operate sports betting, extending to at least 1,200 sports betting locations and internet/ mobile platforms. This should be viewed as a massive expansion of gaming.

Third, HB 2199 places financial liability and risk upon the State. Sports wagering is subject to volatility due to the unpredictable nature of sporting events and this volatility means that the

house sometimes loses, paying out more in winnings than received in wagers. The State, and its taxpayers, should not take on this risk.

To further understand reasons why we oppose HB 2199, I would ask that you review the joint testimony offered by the managers of Kansas Crossing and Boot Hill Casino & Resort via Frieden & Forbes, LLP.

Respectfully, and on behalf of Kansas Crossing, I would ask that you oppose HB 2199.