

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 215

March 25, 2013

Chairman Siegfried and members of the House Federal and State Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to appear before you today, in favor of SB 215.

This bill deals with the Southeast KS gaming zone and other components. Its purpose is to lower the amount of investment for the casino and percentage from the machines at Camptown Greyhound Park that goes to the State of Kansas. In the past, people have tried to sell the gaming issue as a benefit to the state. I am not going to attempt to do that. What I am going to try to convince you of is the benefit it will be to Southeast Kansas by providing jobs to the people there, which are needed in these hard economic times.

The people in the Southeast Kansas gaming zone, Cherokee and Crawford Counties, have voted approximately 69% and 70% in favor of allowing slots at Camptown Greyhound Park, and in favor for a casino to be built in either county. They voted in overwhelming support of this because they understand the benefits to the local economy that it would provide.

The people of Southeast Kansas are suffering economically due to the difficult recession we went through, and are still recovering from. The jobs

at the Camptown facility, jobs at the casino, construction jobs, and other employment that this bill would create, would help a great deal. Gaming has passed, and is legal in the state of Kansas. The people of Southeast Kansas have overwhelmingly said that they support Camptown Greyhound Park, and a casino. All that this bill does is adjust the percentages and adjust the casino privilege fee amounts to make this a win-win situation for Southeast Kansas, and to the state of Kansas by providing much needed revenue for programs that are being cut, or are in danger of being cut. This is a vote to be business friendly, to grow the economy, and to provide much needed jobs in Southeast Kansas.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony to you today. I will be glad to stand for questions.