

Doug Gatewood, Columbus, Kansas

Thank you Mr. Chairman and committee members for the opportunity to testify in support of **Senate Bill 215**. Kansas has 13 miles of Route 66 and it runs through Galena, Riverton and Baxter Springs before it enters Oklahoma and the Native American owned casinos.

When the original Expanded Lottery Act was passed, aptly numbered as Senate Bill 66 due to the opportunities for Route 66, the Kansas Legislature wanted these facilities to be destination type facilities, with hotels, restaurants, event halls and other amenities so visitors from other states would come to Kansas.

The original study as well as every other study I am aware of has reported the number one area of the state to attract out of state visitors is the area around Route 66. The original minimum investment of \$225 million and a \$25 million privilege fee would have been fine given the economics of the time and the fact that there was no casino facility on the state line at the time. With all due respect Mr. Chairman, we all know how slow government works and by the time the bill was through the process and the bids were submitted and approved, the Quapaw tribe had built a \$301 million facility not only on the state line, but the parking lot was actually in Kansas! This facility has been wonderful for our area as it brings people through Kansas as they travel to it, but we would like to see people traveling to Kansas instead of through it.

If we can reduce the minimum investment of the southeast zone equal to the statutory requirements for the Dodge City facility, which is \$50 million with a \$5.5 million privilege fee, then it makes the zone viable and we have several groups wanting to submit proposals that will benefit Kansas financially.

Mr. Chairman and committee members, this bill adds nothing to current law regarding casino gaming, and does not add gaming for southeast Kansas residents as we already have it right across the Oklahoma line. What reducing the minimum investment does is gives us an opportunity to compete in the market and to bring in some of these discretionary dollars to help provide support for providing necessary services such as infrastructure and public safety , and to grow our economy to protect from increased property taxes.

Again I want to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be here and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have at the appropriate time