



Testimony

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SB 192

Kansas Expanded Lottery Act Changes

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Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee

The Unified Government opposes Senate Bill 192.

Senate Bill 192 changes the fundamental financial landscape of the gaming law in an effort to get The Woodlands Racetrack and others re-opened. It is unfair to the Hollywood Casino at Kansas Speedway to change the rules at this point in the game.

The Hollywood Casino at Kansas Speedway brings much more than gambling revenues. It brought a second Sprint Cup NASCAR race to Kansas every year; it has constructed an in-field road course for sports car racing. And just last week, the Unified Government Commission voted unanimously to approve a resolution for the Hollywood Casino Hotel. Investments like the hotel could be threatened by legislation such as SB 192. The Hollywood Casino has created hundreds of good jobs for Wyandotte County residents and others in the region.

It did those things based on the rules as approved in SB 66 in 2007. From investment levels to the number of slot machines allowed, SB 192 restructures the entire gaming landscape in a way which puts the destination casinos at a competitive disadvantage after they've made the initial investments.

Reopening the gaming law also opens the door to other possible changes which could be detrimental to the Unified Government and other local governments and to development agreements negotiated between the Unified Government and Hollywood Casino.

It's interesting that when the expanded gaming law was passed, Governor Kathleen Sebelius held one of the bill signing ceremonies at The Woodlands. Hundreds of people showed up cheering and excited. The owners said the addition of slot machines would save the track. The racing industry was involved in the writing and passage of the expanded gaming act in 2007. If the percentages wouldn't work, why did they agree to them?

The Unified Government supports The Woodlands re-opening with a full slate of greyhound and horse racing and slots under the terms of the current law. It cannot support unfair changes in the rules.