



February 20, 2019

Room 159-S

Hearing on Senate Bill No. 49

To the Honorable Senator Dan Kerschen

Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

I am Lynda M. Fort, Executive Director of the Kansas Bed and Breakfast Association, representing 65 member Inns and all lodging facilities concerned with the use and future development of lodging facilities on the State Park properties. Lodging facilities adjacent to these 26 parks, competing for business are in some cases, small family business who pay property taxes, collect transient tax and sales tax for the State of Kansas, purchase full coverage insurance for their guests, are licensed by the State of Kansas, and are inspected by the Health and Environment Division of the State Agricultural Department and inspected by the State Fire Marshall's office. Most also have general pest control services, belong and support CVB or Chamber of Commerce, and their regional tourism councils.

All of these expenses are part of bringing guests to the area for a safe and comfortable experience with a built in host that engages them in visiting the area attractions, purchasing gas, meals, and if necessary our local health facilities in time of emergency.

The playing field is not level. I serve on the Governor's Council for Tourism and fully understand the desire of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism to acquire enough funding to move that department, develop our outdoor experiences and sustain with fees, licensing, and other income to be close to self-sustaining that department, but it will be at a cost to the small business owners.

Thank you.

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