

Kansas State Legislature
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: Letter of support for SB 91

January 30, 2023

Dear Senators,

My name is Celeste Lupercio and I am the Director of Marketing and Community Engagement for Visit Kansas City Kansas (Visit KCK). We are the convention and visitors bureau (CVB) in Kansas, city of Kansas City. I have also joined the board as a voting board member for Grow Kansas Film (GKF).

The Executive Director of Visit KCK and I, along with our Board of Directors, are in wholehearted support of Bill #91. In my role as Marketing Director, I also serve on several committees which represent other tourism and business organizations in Kansas. These include the Northeast Kansas Tourism group (CVBs and Chambers), the Greater Kansas City area's Regional Destination Association (CVBs on both sides of the state line, to the north and south of KCK), and am an Ambassador for the Kansas City Kansas Chamber. I am writing to represent that these groups are in support of this bill.

Although I was assigned to a GKF committee due to my role with Visit KCK, I applied to join the board because of my passion for filmmaking. It has always seemed cool and interesting to me, as someone who enjoys going to the movies. But during the pandemic I somehow became the Executive Producer of a feature-length film, "Summer in Hindsight." The process was so intriguing! As the EP of a low-budget film, and making a film during the lockdown of the pandemic, I personally handled many of the fine details. I know from first-hand experience how many businesses and services I employed to support our movie shoot. From \$35 permits to the city to hiring security at the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, from renting vehicles to hiring catering and craft services, from booking hotels to arranging dinners and cocktails, I did this and more. And all of this cost money. And this money pumped the economy. Even during the lockdown of a pandemic! Yes, we filmed this movie the summer of 2020. If we on a small budget, and with a pared-down crew due to safety concerns, put thousands of dollars into the economy during the most restrictive time of our economy in decades, imagine what large movie-making companies can do with no restrictions!

Not to mention that the people who see this movie want to know more about the places it was filmed. It's the nature of our society. We're more voyeuristic than ever thanks to social media. We can learn through an Instagram Reel what it looks like behind the scenes, and we can see in Facebook posts the awesome places people are dining. And then we want to go there. Not only will the filmmaking process in and of itself give Kansas exposure, but the people temporarily living here will wet the whistle of social media onlookers long before the film is released.

This bill is written to support Kansas, from the beginning to the end. Filmmaking through the parameters of this bill will employ many people from Kansas, hire many businesses from Kansas, fund many cities and counties of Kansas, and shine the light on the beauty that is Kansas.

I implore you to move SB 91 from this committee to the full senate, and to vote yes. Kansas deserves this win.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Celeste C. Lupercio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light blue background behind the text.

Celeste C. Lupercio

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