



March 10, 2025

House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee
Written Proponent Testimony for HB 2346
Alan Carr, Executive Director, Visit Kansas City Kansas

Chairman Tarwater and House Commerce committee members,

On behalf of Visit Kansas City Kansas, please accept this letter in support of the new draft amended language of HB 2346.

The State of Kansas has invested in major sports facilities in Kansas City, Kansas, through STAR Bonds. These facilities are bringing major events into the state, but we could bring more. We are losing the opportunity to bid on events because we cannot match the financial commitments made by communities in other states.

The passing of this legislation will allow Kansas communities large and small to compete to host economically impactful sporting events and drive out-of-state visitation through sports tourism. Our community has the infrastructure and facilities to compete and host regional and national sporting events. This sports tourism legislation will allow us to be competitive.

- 23 states now have dedicated sports tourism funds that help them attract major sports events. Kansas is losing out on sports tourism dollars.
- Our neighboring states of Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa and Oklahoma have dedicated sports tourism funds. The state of Kansas is at a competitive disadvantage.

Kansas is missing key opportunities to bring revenue to the state, fill hotel rooms and support local businesses. A dedicated Kansas sports tourism grant program means more major sporting events, more out of state visitors and more out of state dollars spent in Kansas. It allows communities to attract higher quality sporting competitions, national tournaments, and championship events that drive economic impact and enhance Kansas reputation as a premier sports destination.

Visit Kansas City Kansas submits this testimony in support of House Bill 2346 and its new language and respectfully asks that this bill be passed out of committee and submitted for full approval of the House of Representatives.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Carr".

Alan Carr
Executive Director