



March 9, 2025

House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee

Written Proponent Testimony for HB 2346

Presented by: Mike Hill

Chairman Tarwater and House Commerce committee members,

I am Mike Hill, representing GroupHousing LLC in support of HB 2346 (with new version of the bill).

I am a seasoned professional in the sports travel industry, currently serving as the Vice President of Sales and Business Development at GroupHousing Travel. GroupHousing LLC is a specialized travel and housing management company that provides hotel accommodation for sports tournaments, large-scale events, and organizations globally. With a Certified Sports Travel and Tourism (STS) credential and over two decades of experience in hospitality and sports, I have specialized in forging strong partnerships with professional, collegiate, and amateur event organizers and venue partner globally. My career highlights include leadership roles at Hilton, where I oversaw the Sports Division and was considered the subject matter expert within the hospitality community and was asked on numerous occasions to speak at conferences on sports within the hospitality community.

I support HB 2346 in Kansas because it levels the playing field for the state in the highly competitive sports tourism industry. Many states, including Missouri, have aggressively positioned themselves with grants and incentives to attract major sporting events, giving them a distinct advantage over Kansas. Despite having world-class facilities, Kansas is often overlooked due to a lack of state-backed financial support.

Having worked with professional, collegiate, and amateur sporting events throughout my career, I have seen firsthand how states strategically bid and invest to secure these events and the profound economic impact they bring to host communities. Without similar incentives, Kansas is at a disadvantage in attracting these lucrative opportunities. Passing HB 2346 would not only help Kansas compete more effectively but also drive significant economic growth across multiple regions of the state, benefiting local businesses, hospitality sectors, and the broader community.

I strongly support the new language of HB 2346 and urge the committee to advance this bill to ensure Kansas remains competitive in the sports tourism industry. Providing grants and incentives will not only help attract major sporting events but also drive substantial economic impact across the state. By aligning Kansas with other states that actively invest in sports tourism, we can unlock new opportunities for growth, support local businesses, and showcase our world-class facilities on a larger stage. I respectfully encourage the committee to support this bill and give Kansas the fair chance it deserves to compete and thrive in this vital industry.

Thank you for allowing me to submit this letter, I am happy to answer questions when appropriate.

Mike Hill

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