

Written Testimony on Senate Bill 52

Kansas Senate Commerce Committee

January 31, 2025

Members of the Senate Commerce Committee,

My name is Paul Dechant. I am a filmmaker and podcast producer who grew up in La Crosse, Kansas. I currently reside in New York.

I'm writing to express my support for the film tax credit bill (Senate Bill 52).

This bill is important to me. As a filmmaker, I'm always looking for ways to film projects in my home state. A little over a year ago, I made a short documentary about the Kansas wheat harvest that played in numerous festivals, including Tallgrass and the Kansas City FilmFest. That film served as a proof-of-concept for a narrative feature that I'm currently raising the financing for. It's a drama that takes place in rural western Kansas -- in a town very much like La Crosse -- and it addresses many of the concerns facing rural Kansans today. The proposed budget for the film is just over \$1 million dollars.

I would like nothing more than to be able to shoot the project out in western Kansas - but the truth is that without any type of tax incentive, it is likely that I'll be forced to move production to Oklahoma, where they have a robust rebate program.

I'm very passionate about showcasing Kansas on the big screen. Aside from the cultural impact, the increased economic activity would be a boon to the state, especially in rural areas like La Crosse - where the effects would be more acutely felt. I urge you to support the film tax credit bill and send it to the Governor to become law.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Paul Dechant