



KANSAS AUTOMOBILE DEALERS ASSOCIATION

February 23, 2021

To: The Honorable Richard Proehl, Chairman and Members of the House Transportation Committee

From: Don L. McNeely, President

Re: SB 33 - AN ACT concerning motor vehicles; relating to the vehicle dealers and manufacturers licensing act; providing for a display show license; allowing for new vehicle dealers and manufacturers to participate in display shows

Good Afternoon, Chairman Proehl and Members of the Committee. My name is Don McNeely and I serve as the President and CEO of the Kansas Automobile Dealers Association. I appear before you this afternoon in support of SB 33, which proposes an amendment to the dealer licensing statutes that will establish a display show license, which will allow the display and demonstration of new vehicles by licensed Kansas new vehicle dealers and manufacturers during an auto show.

The proposed amendment will allow the Kansas City Auto Show, which has been held in Kansas City, Missouri (KCMO) since 1907 to be moved to Kansas, specifically the Kansas Speedway in June of 2021. The Covid-19 Pandemic has caused many changes in our society and world in ways not previously imagined, and our industry is looking for new and highly creative ways of doing business. The move of the Kansas City Auto Show to the Kansas Speedway captures that creative spirit. It will provide new mobility experiences and increasingly innovative approaches to tapping into the mobility industry and its exciting new products.

While many Auto Shows around the country are being canceled for 2021 due to the Pandemic, the dealers in the Kansas City Metro Area are moving forward and believe the Kansas Speedway is ripe with opportunity. Over the three-day show, a festival-like atmosphere is expected where the vehicles take center stage, but will be surrounded by fun, food, fireworks, music, and more. Early reaction to the proposed move has been nothing short of enthusiastic and positive.

The move of the Auto Show from Missouri to Kansas will of course be beneficial to the State of Kansas, Wyandotte County, and the more localized Legends/Village West Development area. Thousands of people attend the Auto Show daily, typically spending about 3.5 hours at the show. Attendees will find the Speedway location easily accessible and with ample parking. improvement over downtown KCMO.

On behalf of the Kansas Automobile Dealers Association, I thank the Members of the Committee for allowing me to appear before you this afternoon in support of SB 33.

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