



Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee
Proponent Testimony SB 227
Scott Zaremba Plaza 1907
March 2, 2023

Chairman Tyson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill SB 227. My name is Scott Zaremba I am the owner and operator of a truly historical theater, located in Ottawa Kansas. We were certified by Guinness book of world records in 2018 as “The Oldest Operating Purpose-Built Cinema in The World”! The Plaza has been through its share of challenges, from Floods, Fire, Wars and two Pandemic’s over the past 116 years.

The latest pandemic and the expansion of online entertainment have created the perfect storm, shifting entertainment dollars from being spent locally, to being spent outside our community and state thru streaming. Being closed for more than a year has been devastating to our movie theaters business. we are open again, but only on the weekends. I am excited to report our customers are slowly returning to the theater. Our Movie theater is truly one of the last places in our community that our customers can gather meeting their friends and family and experience a truly historic venue and watch a classic or first run movie.

We will recover, but we need the help of keeping our tax dollar at the theater. This will help us pay our dedicated employees and our ongoing expenses. Our expenses do not decrease and in fact has increased as inflation has gotten out of control.

The tax relief offered by SB 227 would provide a critical piece to help us weather this situation we find ourselves in. This is not a situation we created, but with your help we can continue to serve our community for another 116 years.

Thank you!

Scott Zaremba

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