

Testimony before Senate Federal and State Affairs  
March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
SB 307- Kansas Amusement Ride Act –  
Concerning home owned amusement rides and agritourism activities

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to come before you today to address SB 307. I appear on behalf of the statewide members of The Kansas Recreation and Park Association (KRPA). KRPA is a non-profit professional organization representing municipal parks, and recreation Kansas.

From small rural towns to urban centers, the Association and its members' have a positive impact and contribute to communities around the state of Kansas. Our goal is to improve the business, health, and economic environments in our local communities because we are there.

**Safety is paramount**

We are committed to ensuring an exemplary level of safety reflected in the legislative intent set out in the act. At the same time we believe there are reasonable adjustments that can be successfully made to this bill while not compromising safety. As such we agree with the amendment regarding waterslides in SB 307<sup>1</sup> and also ask you consider the following.

Municipal pools are a service to the families of communities large and small across the state. During the summer months, the local pool may be the only physical activity for kids in the rural towns of Kansas. The citizens of each town or city has decided they want their taxes to go toward a pool as municipal pools do not make money or even break even. They are a genuine service to the community paid for by taxes.

When a slide is installed at the community level, there are 2 organizations providing oversight of the design and installation. The standards cover everything from ADA chair lifts to waterslides to the depth markers. The builder installing the slide must also follow those standards. From the design of the pool down to the waterslides, everything is approved and stamped by an architect and an engineer.

***As such we request you amend the height requirement of the slide in in section (s) to 35 ft. and add the requirement that a life guard be stationed at the slide to ensure patrons are properly adhering to the safety standards in place.***

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<sup>1</sup> (s) "Water slide" means a slide that is at least ~~15~~ **20** feet in height and that uses water to propel the patron through the ride, ***but does not include any such slide that is owned or operated by a municipality as defined in K.S.A. 75-6102, and amendments thereto.***

Given that local slides are a valuable part of summer recreational activities from small communities to larger communities and that it is important we continue to provide our communities with access to these recreation facilities, we believe this is a reasonable request. We know without this adjustment, many of our local, particularly rural communities, would not be able to provide this kind of activity for their community.

We appreciate the consideration given to this request and stand ready to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted,  
On behalf of Erika Devore, Executive Director of the KRPA

Melissa Ness  
KRPA Advocacy