

CITY OF FOUNTAINS
HEART OF THE NATION



KANSAS CITY
MISSOURI

QUINTON D. LUCAS
Mayor

February 23, 2021

Chairman Richard Proehl
House Transportation Committee
Kansas State Legislature
SW 8th & SW Van Buren
Topeka, Kansas

Re: Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 33

Chairman Proehl and Members of the Committee:

I write in opposition to Senate Bill 33, which I believe to be a step backwards in our efforts for better regional coordination. Having spent some of my youth in Hutchinson, Kansas and working in Kansas for much of my adult life, I greatly value the regional cooperation between Missouri and Kansas and making our entire region stronger. When our states agreed to put an end to the long-standing economic border war between Kansas and Missouri in 2019, it was a clear first step to building better regional collaboration. The long-standing history of shuffling of economic opportunities back and forth across the state line has eroded trust and negatively impacted efforts to grow the greater Kansas City region, which helps residents on both sides of the state line.

The Kansas City Auto Show has been hosted by Kansas City, Missouri since 1907. Automobile production and design has been an important part of Kansas City's history for over 100 years, and the Kansas City Auto Show has been an annual, local landmark recognized by Kansas Citians throughout the decades. Even in these trying times, Kansas City's convention center stands ready to host the annual auto show under health and safety protocols that already have been used to host regional events large and small in Kansas City, including the Chiefs' playoff run, over recent months. The Kansas Legislature must recognize the tone that Senate Bill 33 sets, by encouraging important events and businesses to relocate across state lines—hindering long-term development in Kansas City.

We hope all parties involved reconsider this move and continue to support the 124-year-old tradition of the Auto Show in Kansas City. More importantly, I encourage all to make decisions that speak to the long-term economic benefits of the greater Kansas City region in the collaborative spirit of the border war truce we agreed to in 2019.

The pandemic has caused changes in many of our annual traditions, but regional collaboration and trust must remain strong if we are to successfully recover. I encourage our neighbors in the Kansas Legislature, Members of the Senate Transportation Committee, to recognize the precedent Senate Bill 33 sets for the greater Kansas City region and oppose its passage. I thank you for your service to the people of Kansas and our entire region. God bless you all.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Q. Lucas', written in a cursive style.

Quinton D. Lucas

CC: Senate Transportation Committee Chairman Mike Petersen