

**Testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee
SB 106– Consumer Protection Act
Presented by Eric Stafford, Senior Director of Government Affairs**



Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Chairman Owens and members of the Committee:

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 106. My name is Eric Stafford. I am the Senior Director of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber.

The Kansas Chamber is pleased to support Senate Bill 106 which tightens the Kansas Consumer Protection Act to protect businesses from frivolous lawsuits by individuals who have suffered no real harm. Kansas is one of four states plus the District of Columbia which currently allows lawsuits regardless of whether or not any person has actually been misled, deceived or damaged.

From software packaging to MP3 players, lawsuits have been brought against companies when the consumer suffered no "loss." The proposed changes to the Kansas Consumer Protection Act included in SB 106 will prevent similar baseless suits from being filed in Kansas.

SB 106 preserves the intent of consumer protection laws which were created to prevent deceptive practices and protect consumers who purchase a product with a value that was portrayed differently through advertisements. The Kansas Chamber is asking the Kansas legislature to protect Kansas businesses against the threat of frivolous lawsuits while maintaining the state's ability to stop unfair or deceptive practices.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you in support of Senate Bill 106. I would be happy to answer any questions.

The Kansas Chamber, with headquarters in Topeka, is the leading statewide pro-business advocacy group moving Kansas towards becoming the best state in America to do business. The Chamber represents small, medium and large employers all across Kansas.



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