



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 100		DATE: 2/17/2021	
COMMITTEE: Transportation			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BOBBY KENDRICK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: bkendrick@nlbm.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2021 12:08 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Rep. Sharp and Members of the House Transportation Committee: I write on behalf of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum (NLBM) to offer testimony in full support of House Bill (HB) 100 that would authorize the creation of a Missouri license plate to promote public awareness of the NLBM and raise funds to support museum operations. As most of you may know, the NLBM is the world's only museum dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich history of African American baseball and its impact on the social advancement of America. The privately funded, 501 c3, not-for-profit organization was incorporated in 1990 and operates in the heart of Kansas City, Missouri's Historic 18th & Vine Jazz District. The NLBM operates two blocks from the Paseo YMCA where Andrew "Rube" Foster established the Negro National League in 1920. We opened our doors to the public in a tiny, one-room office in 1991 with a dream of building a permanent home that would pay rightful tribute to America's unsung baseball heroes. In November of 1997, under the leadership of its late chairman John "Buck" O'Neil, that dream became a reality when we moved into our new home at 18th & Vine. Today, the NLBM features a magnificent 10,000 square foot gallery that is attracting visitors worldwide and has given voice to a remarkable chapter of American history that had gone untold for far too long. In July of 2006, the NLBM gained National Designation from the United States Congress earning the distinction of being "America's National Negro Leagues Baseball Museum." Shunned from Major League Baseball because of the color of their skin, an enterprising group of independent Black Baseball team owners, led by Rube Foster, ventured into Kansas City determined to create a league of their own. They met at the Paseo YMCA (future home of the Buck O'Neil Education and Research Center) and on February 13, 1920, established the Negro National League, the first successful organized Black Baseball league. For 40 years, the Negro Leagues provided a playing field for the best Black and Hispanic athletes to showcase their world class baseball abilities. Equally important, the leagues would become a thriving business and a catalyst that sparked economic development in Black communities across the country. The circumstances that dictated a need for the Negro Leagues is sad. Segregation was a shameful chapter of America's history but there is nothing sorrowful about the powerful story of the Negro Leagues. Instead, it is an awe-inspiring tale of strong-willed athletes who simply refused to accept the notion that they were unfit to play the game they loved. Their passion would not only change our national pastime but America too. Ironically, a league born out of segregation would become the driving force for social change in this country. One hundred and one years later, the NLBM is keeping the legacy of the Negro Leagues alive and using their winning spirit to teach the importance of diversity, inclusion, equity, tolerance, and respect. We are proud to shoulder the enormous responsibility of keeping a precious piece of baseball and Americana from extinction. The number of surviving players from the Negro Leagues are dwindling every day. They are like World War II veterans. As a matter of fact, many of them were World War II veteran. And what stands at risk is that this history will die with the untimely passing of the last Negro Leaguer. We cannot allow that to happen. Their

story is too powerful, too meaningful, and too compelling to lose it to time. That is why the NLBM is one of the most important cultural institutions in the world. But we are so much more than just a facility that chronicles history. We inspire. The museum does more than explains. It conveys the human struggle but also beautifully demonstrates the power of the human spirit to triumph over adversity. The NLBM is a wonderful place to learn about a once forgotten chapter of history but more importantly, it is a place where humanity touches home. Passage of this bill would be a tremendous acknowledgement of the important role of the NLBM. While we are tremendously proud of the tourism and international attention the NLBM continues to garner, we are even prouder that this national treasure resides in the great city of Kansas City...and in the great State of Missouri. Thanks to Rep. Sharp and all who are giving consideration to vote on the passage of this bill. Our entire team at the NLBM and Board of Directors are grateful for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming you to the NLBM in the not-so-distant future. Sincerely, Bob Kendrick
President
Negro Leagues Baseball Museum



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CASEY KLAPMEYER		PHONE NUMBER:	
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CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kcdaniels92@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2021 5:02 PM
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The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum (NLBM) is the world's only museum dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich history of African-American baseball and its impact on the social advancement of America. The State of Missouri should be proud to be the home of this museum and having a license plate for residents to advertise the NLBM during our travels would be a wonderful way to honor the institution. I fully support HB100 and providing this as an option to the residents of Missouri.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
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CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: ArnieDienoff@Yahoo.Com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2021 11:22 PM
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I Support the Cause.How many different License Plates do we need?I oppose this Bill