

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitors Bureau
Statement Regarding Country Stampede Announcement**

MANHATTAN, Kan. (June 20, 2019) – The Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce is obviously very disappointed to hear that Manhattan’s 24-year relationship with Country Stampede is ending. We are pleased to have been a big part of Country Stampede’s success and growth.

We believe the hundreds of thousands of people who attended Country Stampede in Manhattan throughout the years have enjoyed our hospitality and our community. The owners of Country Stampede have made it clear that this decision is not a reflection on the City of Manhattan or Tuttle Creek State Park. Our understanding is that Stampede officials needed to attract a new capital partner to continue to grow and expand the festival in the future. For local country music fans, the good news is they found a partner that will keep the festival in northeast Kansas. Unfortunately for Manhattan, that new partnership means the festival will have a new home near Topeka.

Manhattan and Tuttle Creek State Park have an excellent track record of hosting a nationally acclaimed music festival for more than two decades. This announcement does absolutely nothing to change that. Manhattan is a great spot to host meetings, events and festivals. Manhattan is also a community that comes together to create new opportunities. The Chamber looks forward to working with our community in the future to foster the next big thing for Manhattan.

Jason Smith, President and CEO, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce
Karen Hibbard, Director, Manhattan Convention & Visitors Bureau

This will serve as the only statement from the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce and its affiliates on the issue.

###