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**Testimony Re: HB 2550
House Federal and State Affairs Committee
Presented by Ronald R. Hein
on behalf of
Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association
February 6, 2012**

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

My name is Ron Hein, and I am legislative counsel for the Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association (KRHA). The Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association, founded in 1929, is the leading business association for restaurants, hotels, motels, country clubs, private clubs and allied business in Kansas. Along with the Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association Education Foundation, the association works to represent, educate and promote the rapidly growing industry of hospitality in Kansas.

The KRHA supports HB 2550 which deletes the sub-section of the statute that basically prohibits Happy Hours in Kansas restaurants and bars. Current law permits drinking establishments to lower the price of a drink for an entire day, but not a few select hours of the day.

Removal of this restriction will enable Kansas drinking establishments to offer reduced pricing during the so-call Happy Hour. This will especially benefit drinking establishments located near borders of the state, who currently are in a competitive disadvantage when competing with our across the state border neighbors.

In addition, although many would believe that lowering the drink price will encourage additional alcohol consumption, we do not believe that the evidence backs up this claim, and we believe that the removal of this restriction in the statute will enable drinking establishments to cater to their clientele without having to use superficial gimmicks such as reducing snack prices coupled with the drinks.

The KRHA strongly urges the House Committee to support the passage of HB 2550.

Thank you very much for permitting me to testify, and I will be happy to yield to questions.