

February 28, 2013

Chairman, Representative Marvin KleeB,  
House Commerce Committee,  
State Capitol  
West 10th Street  
Topeka, Kansas. 66612

Re: Kansas HB 2206

Chairman KleeB:

As a former Johnson County Commissioner, economic development was a central focus of service. In a community like ours, the competitive advantage neighboring states had in business recruitment and retention was often discussed, as was the loss of tax dollars across the border.

An obvious example of economic loss was evidenced by the state's contrasting alcohol laws and the announcement by Quik Trip, HyVee, and Fast Mart that further expansion in Kansas was not likely unless the sale of single strength beer and wine were permitted.

One need only look across the borders where in nearby Nebraska and Missouri, liquor stores are still part of the community footprint, even while sales of beer, wine, and spirits are permissible in grocery and convenience stores.

I would encourage consumers and our lawmakers to aggressively work toward such change for the critical purpose of stopping the leakage of millions of retail dollars to Nebraska and Missouri. We know there are hundreds of Kansans living along the border who take advantage of the convenience of shopping for groceries and their adult beverages in one store.

Every day you find Kansas tags in the parking lots of the grocery stores of our neighboring states. That's lost tax dollars for the state and local communities, and lost revenue for the store owner.

We can retain more Kansas dollars in our state by selling adult beverages in Kansas grocery and convenience stores. It's an option today's consumers believe they're entitled to; hence the reason they'll travel across state lines to have that privilege.

We cannot prevent all border leakage, but we can enact legislation that puts us on equal ground with neighboring states. In a state that values free market principles, it is time we adopt legislation that reflects a business owner's right to responsibly sell the products they deem most appropriate for their store.

Thank you to for your consideration, for your leadership and most importantly, for your service to the State of Kansas.

Sincerely,



David A. Lindstrom