

Date: February 9, 2017

To: Chairwoman Kristey Williams and House Local Government Members

From: Cindy Green, Deputy Director

Re: Support of HB 2277

On behalf of the League of Kansas Municipalities, thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of HB 2277.

The citizens of Lenexa created a vision to build a gathering place that offers restaurants with a shared dining area, similar to a food court or festival, known as a common consumption area. Unfortunately, this vision does not fit within the current statutory regulations for alcohol sales within this area. Entertainment districts, such as Lenexa City Center are a new opportunity for economic development and tourism in the state of Kansas.

Many laws were created based on the needs of society at the time created. As times and society change, there is often a need to update laws to address these changes. The common consumption area is a new concept that will require such an update. HB 2277 makes a change in the statutes controlling alcohol sales in a limited manner to achieve the needed flexibility.

The League supports statute changes to provide an opportunity for local businesses to operate in a common consumption area and request the committee move HB 2277 out favorably to the full House.