

March 8, 2018

Proponent Testimony on HB 2668 from Bill Kromer

To the Kansas House Committee on Taxation

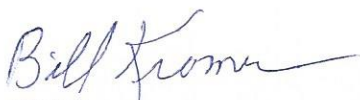
The board of directors of Leavenworth Farmers Market supports HB2668 and encourages passage providing sales tax exemption of farm products sold at farmers' markets in Kansas. The growth of farmers' markets across the state has coincided with the desire of local citizens to purchase healthy, locally grown foods, and the passage of this bill will encourage more participation and better food value.

Even in the 1940's, there was a farmers market in Leavenworth, and was operated by farmers with a small amount of land and limited crops were grown. In many ways, this is true today. Small is still important-not small in meaning less-but small in meaning locally grown by the people selling it. Our market is a producer only market, meaning everything sold there has to be grown or produced by the vendor selling it. Our customers want to understand how and where the food was grown. Small farmers can tell them exactly when the seed was planted and when it was harvested, there are no big food chain growers here.

Many farmers find it complicated and time consuming to figure out the sales tax on one tomato or two yellow squash, so they just "round-up" the purchase total and hope it is enough to cover the sales tax. This is no intent to disregard the tax, but when there are other customers waiting to be served, and only one person working the stand, there isn't time for this task.

Traditionally, farmers markets are open 4 hours a session for six months of the year. During that time, farmers try hard to support healthy habits through quality food for everyone. This bill will help shoppers have more money for additional purchases for their family.

The passage of HB 2668-sales tax exemption on farm products sold at farmers' market will be beneficial for farmers, local families, our local community, and the state of Kansas.



Bill Kromer
President Leavenworth Farmers Market
Leavenworth, Kansas