

Talk of the Town Grill & Bar
Testimony Re: SB 175
Provided by Steve Reynolds
February 13, 2017

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Steve Reynolds, I am a partner in Smith & Lomshek Holdings dba Talk of the Town in Leawood, Kansas and Overland Park, Kansas. I am submitting testimony in opposition to SB 175, which would increase the alcohol enforcement tax.

The restaurant business is one of the most competitive industries in Kansas. We work very hard to innovate and create an environment where people want to come and enjoy themselves. One of my restaurants is a mile from the Missouri border. Increasing my input costs for alcohol will be detrimental to my business. The enforcement tax increase of 100%, from 8 to 16 percent will be passed onto me and I will have to it along to the customer.

Cross-border competition is a real thing in Johnson County. Kansas has always done well measuring the costs of its tax structure to ensure our communities are not at a cross-border disadvantage. I would encourage you to oppose this alcohol tax enforcement increase because it targets my industry specifically and is broadly bad policy.

Thank you for allowing me to speak with you. I kindly ask for you to oppose SB 175 in order to keep Kansas businesses competitive.

Sincerely,

Steve Reynolds
Partner