



*Serving Kansas Retailers Everyday*

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February 17, 2019

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation,

The Kansas Food Dealers Association has lost almost 150 stores in the last 20 years. David Proctor in his Rural Grocery Initiative group has lost over 50 in recent years. Not A good story for the State of Kansas.

I can list some of the obvious reasons for these typically, Native Kansans businesses for Closing their doors. But I'll stick to just a few.

1. Walmart
2. Dollar General, Dollar Tree
3. Aldi
4. Predatory pricing and Below Cost selling of Milk
5. Amazon, Blue Apron, all other online food purveyors
6. Natural Evolution of business
7. 0% Food Sales Tax in Colorado and Nebraska
8. 1.45% Food Sales tax in Oklahoma
9. 4.25% Food Sales tax in Missouri

I spend a lot of time reading about and attending “Food Desert” seminars, testimony, local government meetings, National events, all pointing to raising considerable efforts to eliminate the absence of fresh food for consumers that is within a reasonable distance from their homes.

I drive through towns that are devastated by the Food Companies of Wall Street, publicly traded companies and those towns that have a European company in the mix of this out of control annihilation of the independent Grocer, the Kansas Grocer. And, as the Kansas Grocer goes, so goes the Kansas town.

So, I am in favor of lowering the tax on food. I am in favor of matching and beating the competition hovering around our borders. I mean have the goal to take it to ZERO. I am in favor of making sure online selling into Kansas has taxes like the stores in Kansas.



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Thank you for considering lowering the tax on Food sales. It helps the lower the food costs to middle class families that take their food dollars to the grocery store and not the restaurant.

If you would like to contact me, my contact info is: Jon McCormick, President, Kansas Food Dealers Association, 2809 W. 47<sup>th</sup> Street, Westwood, KS 66205.

If you have any question, please contact me directly at 913-226-8020.

Sincerely,

Jon McCormick  
President, KFDA