



**3.2.2022**

**Testimony from Richard Risewick, Owner**

**Jamboree Foods, locations in Norton, Hill City, Atwood, Oakley and Ness City, KS**

**Testimony for the Kansas House of Representatives Taxation Committee**

Thank you, Chairman Smith, for allowing me this opportunity to provide a rural grocer perspective on this important piece of legislation. My grocery stores serve five communities in Kansas: Norton, Hill City, Atwood, Oakley and Ness City. In all five of these rural communities, we are the only grocery store in town and, as you know, grocery stores are a vital cog in the local economy.

Economic Impact of Jamboree Foods in rural Kansas:

- We employ over **100** Kansans, ranging in age from **16 – 80+**, for a total estimated annual payroll of **\$2.1 million**.
- We paid over **\$66,000** in state withholding taxes for these employees in 2021.
- We paid approximately **\$75,000** in property taxes in 2021.
- We gave approximately **\$80,000** to charitable causes in our five communities in 2021.

Other items to note:

- This will benefit the State of Kansas because we are currently losing sales tax dollars on non-food items as consumers are choosing to leave the state to purchase their groceries and, as a result, purchasing non-food items there, as well.
- Three of our stores are located close enough to Nebraska – a 0% food sales tax state – that we lose significant business to that state.
- We are essentially penalizing our consumers for shopping locally, by charging them an additional 6.5-8.5%.
- In 2020-2021, we have invested approximately \$400,000 in energy efficiency upgrades in our stores.
- Many of my rural peers have already closed their doors, essentially closing the door to the community.

Request:

- Please support HB 2720 and the movement to 0% state sales tax on food.
- Continue to shop local and support your local grocer!

Thank you.

Richard Risewick

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