



INDEPENDENT ENERGY & CONVENIENCE

February 16, 2022

Memorandum:

To: Senate Commerce Committee
From: Becky Schwartz, Executive Director, Fuel True
Re: Support SB 493

Madam Chair and members of the Senate Commerce Committee:

My name is Becky Schwartz. I am the Executive Director of Fuel True Independent Energy and Convenience, formally known as the Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association of Kansas (PMCA of Kansas), a statewide trade association representing over 250 independent Kansas Energy distribution companies and convenience store retailers throughout Kansas.

Madam Chairwoman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony supporting SB 493.

Auxiliary containers are an essential part of sales at convenience stores. Whether it be the to-go cup full of coffee or soda, a plastic bag to help carry out all your children's snacks, or maybe a container of biscuits and gravy. Our convenience stores rely on these products to get customers on their way.

Many stores order these products in bulk to supply their locations across the state. They may have pallets of these products in their storage areas. If a location cannot use these products, it will create a lot of waste. Some stores have switched to a more eco-friendly product; however, these products aren't always available.

When customers come into our stores, they don't think about bringing their bags, utensils, or cups. They come in and want to grab what they need to eat or drink as they go. This can also put a burden on lower-income families as the cost of a reusable product costs more than the plastic or one-time use product.

Many convenience stores have multiple locations throughout the state. When headquarters are in Manhattan, but they have stores in Wichita, Garnett, Emporia, to name a few, it can be challenging to keep track of all the different laws for each municipality. Consistency across the state when you have multiple locations is just one way to help business be a little less complicated.

Our support for 493 is about uniformity across the state. But it is also about convenience. That is why we are convenience stores, and we are a business where you can get just about anything. Walking out with a bag full of snacks, coffee, and fountain drinks is much easier than trying to balance all of that along with your kids and unlocking your car door. Therefore, we ask the committee to support SB 493.

Thank You.