



My name is Kevin Gregg, and I represent Fuel True Independent Energy and Convenience. Our association was formerly known as the Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association of Kansas (PMCA of Kansas). We are a statewide trade association representing over 300 independent Kansas Energy distribution companies and convenience store retailers throughout Kansas.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony supporting HB 2269.

As of September 2022, Kansas is one of ten states that has not yet changed the minimum age to purchase tobacco products to 21. HB 2269 is a concise way to bring Kansas into compliance with Federal Law.

Our retailers appreciate that this is a clean bill that simply raises the age without attaching fines and fees that are punitive to our retailers. We are proud that our compliance rate is over 95% and view additional penalties as unnecessary.

Our support of this bill also recognizes the significant funding impact the passage of HB 2269 carries with it. If the legislature fails to raise the age, state agencies stand to lose approximately \$1.2 million in Federal funding beginning in December of this year.

Mr. Chairman, we ask you and the committee to advance HB 2269 favorably and without amendments which may hinder its passage and Kansas' compliance with Federal Law.