



Chairman Pete Brungardt and Members
Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Topeka, Kansas

RE: On premise Alcoholic Liquor Sampling/Tasting

Senators:

I am pleased to write to you today in support of the proposal allowing micro-distilleries to offer alcoholic liquor sampling and tastings.

Dark Horse Distillery was established to create new employment opportunities for highly paid research technicians in the area whose jobs were to be eliminated with the sale of an existing company to an out of state entity. This newly created entity retained these highly skilled individuals in the state managing the distilling process and will create additional jobs in the area with the addition of the public component for the tastings.

With changes to the law allowing for sampling and tasting, Dark Horse will bring additional dollars to the city and state by providing a Kansas alternative to the successful Boulevard Brewing Company located in Kansas City, MO, by offering tours, tastings, training, meeting and convention space, and receptions for individual and corporate functions. Dark Horse will be the single largest tourist venue in the city of Lenexa drawing additional dollars to the community. Allowing alcohol sampling and tasting will place Dark Horse Distillery on a level playing field with other venues in the area that are allowed to provide sampling of product on site.


Dark Horse Distillery has invested significant dollars in the redevelopment of an existing office/warehouse facility in Lenexa beginning the process of redevelopment of a business park in an older section of the city. Changing the law to allow sampling and tastings will allow for the success of the distillery and the promise of additional investment in capital in the area, increasing property values and tax revenues.

These proposed changes to the law are the proverbial "win win" for the community and the state, supporting the retention and creation of jobs, expanding tourism within the state, and continuing economic development via capital investment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like additional information.

Sincerely,

CITY OF LENEXA



Michael A. Boehm,
Mayor

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