

Senate Federal & State Affairs Committee

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Submitted by: Michelle Meyer, Holy-Field Vineyard & Winery, 18807 - 158th St., Basehor, KS 66007 (Leavenworth County)

President of Kansas Viticulture & Farm Winery Association

SB390 Line 24 (c) wants to make Kansas Farm Wineries a generic product. What is the purpose of making Kansas wine if we are not using Kansas grapes? I believe in "dancing with the one that brung you". To me that means keeping the farm in farm wineries and Kansas grapes in Kansas wine. I started a vineyard with my dad in 1986. Our vineyard is now 16 acres and we produce estate wines; that means we make wine out of grapes that we grow. Our winery opened in 1994 and our wines are recognized as true Kansas wines because we literally put Kansas in the bottle. Isn't that what you expect when you visit a winery? That is what consumers expect. The farm winery bill was originally introduced as an agricultural bill; a way for grape growers to add value to the grapes they grow. When you visit a farm winery you are likely to meet the farmer and winemaker, they are usually the same person. We wear a lot of hats and we are proud of our vineyards and our wines. I don't know that you would find a more passionate group of people than grape growers and winemakers. This passion is for FARM wineries not Manufacturing. And manufacturing is what you'll get if you remove Kansas grapes from Kansas wine. If someone doesn't want to grow or buy Kansas grapes they have the option of a Manufacturer's license. It is that simple. What this bill is asking for already exists; it is not necessary to change the Farm Winery law.

There are also a lot of people growing grapes for wineries; what will happen to their market? They have spent time, energy and money putting in vineyards and this bill will remove the market that winery owners promised them. This is about agriculture; we live in a state that thrives on agriculture so why on earth would you want to get rid of it when it comes to wine? I really can't understand the reasoning behind the desire to eliminate Kansas grapes from Kansas wine.

Line 12 (1) I am not opposed to the sale of wine by the bottle at special events (for consumption off the event premise).

Line 25 (5) I am not opposed to selling wine by the bottle for consumption on the licensed premise. I oppose selling wine by the glass.

Please oppose/remove Line 24 (c) from SB390 and show our support for Kansas farmers.

Thank you.

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