

To: The Members of the House Commerce, Labor & Economic Development Committee
From: Mike Sullinger
Date: March 7, 2013

I'm Mike Sullinger, and I'm a resident of Prairie Village, Kansas. I'm here today to speak on behalf of thousands of Kansas' consumers who support the Uncork Kansas bill. I have no relationship to any member of the Uncork Kansas coalition. I reached out to the proponents of HB 2206 because of my frustration with the current laws in Kansas, which elevate and protect a special interest group at the expense of every Kansan that would like to purchase a bottle of wine during a grocery shopping trip.

Living near the Missouri border I know many residents along the state line who live in Kansas but shop for groceries in Missouri for the sole reason of being able to purchase a bottle of wine or a six pack of full strength beer at the same time. I hate to see all of these dollars from my family, neighbors and friends going over to the Missouri side.

Right now the liquor stores can only sell alcohol. They're pushing an agenda that Kansas would lose jobs if the liquor laws are changed, but what they're not letting you know is that the law up for review has the ability to actually help them. Wouldn't they like to better serve their customers by being able to sell cups, ice, mixers and snacks? Wouldn't they like that added revenue when they can sell those products and not lose the sales to grocery or convenience stores?

The liquor laws we have now require us to make two trips if we want to buy groceries and get a bottle of wine for dinner. This is very inconvenient and doesn't make good common sense. As busy as we all are, juggling jobs and families, that seems like an unnecessary burden to place on Kansas consumers. I haven't met anyone in Johnson County who isn't as frustrated by the current liquor laws in Kansas as I am.

As a Kansas consumer and voter, I want to see our liquor laws changed. I want to be able to choose where I buy adult beverages, rather than having the government decide for me. I want to benefit from the pricing that competition and a free market will bring.

As columnist Mary Sanchez recently wrote in *The Kansas City Star*, "The limitations make no sense for consumers. They are hangovers from Kansas' crazy liquor history. Carrie Nation would be proud." I whole-heartedly agree and urge you to modernize Kansas' liquor laws this legislative session.

Thank you,
Mike Sullinger
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