



March 7, 2013

Dear Chairman Kleeb and Honorable Members of the Commerce Committee,

Please allow me to introduce myself, my name is L. Dante Passantino and I am a third generation grocery in the Kansas City Metro area. My family owns and operates 3 grocery markets in Missouri and one in Leavenworth, Kansas. Beer, wine, and spirit sales are a measurable portion of our business and profits in our Missouri stores. In Leavenworth, where we own a Country Mart Store, we've struggled since the opening of a new Walmart Super Center in the community.

In order to remain a viable small grocery option for Kansans, we need every competitive advantage to ensure we survive these trying times. Having the freedom to sell alcohol at our store in Leavenworth would allow us to better meet the needs of our customers and remain in business.

America, most especially Kansas, has always believed in a free market system and removing government regulations that impede business owner rights and customer choice. Dictating where adult beverages can – and can't – be sold goes against the very tenets of our economic system.

By updating our liquor laws, you will help foster competition and free commerce instead of curving it. More specifically to me, you'll remove a barrier to doing business that may prove to be the reason I'm able to continue to operate a small grocery store in the great state of Kansas.

I ask you to please support HB 2206 to help generate more sales revenue for our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "L. Dante Passantino".

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