

Flint Hills Wine & Spirits, 125 W Hwy 54, Andover, KS 67002
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February 8, 2017

Dear Chairman Mason and Members of the House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee:

I am opposed to HB 2282. You have heard the facts and will be voting on this soon. Each year I try to bring a fresh look at this in a way that might help you in a decision to save Kansas jobs. Thanks for reading this letter!

For the past 17 years I have been providing testimony. I looked at each one for a common thread, one that could be shared with you and understood.

Licensing is the common thread that keeps alcohol laws safe for the public. As it is, an individual holds the license and if that person doesn't perform to the state's laws, they lose the right to that license, forever. If you turn the license over to a corporation, the state loses the ability to pull that license away from that corporate entity, forever. A corporation is a group rather than an individual. A corporation is entitled to certain privileges that make it immune from holding an individual responsible.

I have said this for years; "I am not afraid to compete with them as long as we are complying with the same rules. If they follow the rules we have now, I would have no argument." "The laws exist now that any grocery or convenience owner could run a liquor store. They need to follow the laws we have in place and stop trying to change them to make it easier for them to do business."

There are many savvy retailers opening liquor stores alongside their own service stations and grocery stores. The Big Box stores can do the same thing now. It is called a "store in a store" and that "provides a separate entrance and individual owner" concept has been in place since prohibition.

You have communities that are well served for alcohol now. Adding to that would only dilute the market, spread out the product to more outlets and decrease everyone's share of that market area. People only drink so much, and only about half of Kansans are drinkers. Yes, more outlets make it more convenient.

Laws should not be made for the convenience aspect of human nature. They are meant to protect people, in this case from easy access to alcohol. Laws should not "relax" safety considerations of the public.

Alcohol is a drug. Pharmacies operate within the walls of big box stores and licenses hang from the walls telling the state who is responsible for the sale of the drugs within. They can do the same with liquor stores as well. They should stop spending money trying to convince you to adapt laws for their benefit and build some walls and get an owner for their store!

Another way of looking at their argument: "why do other states allow..." we should all realize that our laws are strong, balanced and well written for the product at hand. Some other states also keep the sale and profit of alcohol for the state government itself – should we become a control state and not a private industry? These laws have lasted the test of time and should continue unfettered and unchanged. It is not right to re-write the laws to provide advantage to the corporate grocers and convenience stores.

I do appreciate you taking the time to read this. I would appreciate your support and **vote NO for HB 2282**, in any way shape or form, with amendments, or additions.

Regards,

Dave Dvorak, Owner