



**Testimony as a Proponent  
House Bill 2668**

Kansas House of Representatives House Taxation Committee  
Thursday, March 8, 2018, 3:30 pm

Chairman Rep. Johnson  
185-N Kansas State Capitol  
300 10th Ave  
Topeka, KS 66612

We are writing in support of HB 2668 to exempt farm products being sold at farmers markets from collecting sales tax.

We, Sarah and Gage Werner, are the market managers for the Walnut Valley Farmers Market in Winfield, Kansas. We have been involved with farmers markets for more than a decade and believe a community with a thriving farmers market offers an improved quality of life. We believe exempting farm products being sold at farmers market would benefit both customers and vendors at farmers markets, as well as the community in which the market is located.

Farmers markets can be an economic development tool for a community and region, as it allows individuals to safely "test the waters" with a product without the overhead usually associated with opening a small business. Allowing farm products to be exempt from collecting sales tax would provide a strong incentive to agriculture entrepreneurs to participate first in farmers markets to help establish their business.

Sales tax exemption would likely lead to more vendors at farmers markets, offering a better selection of foods and higher quality foods to customers. Customers will reap the reward of being able to purchase the freshest local foods available without being taxed. More sales for vendors means growth for their business.

With a maximum amount earned at market set at \$25,000, that allows businesses sufficient time to grow before being subject to paying sales tax. The hope is that all businesses would grow to this point which would then provide MORE sales tax back to the state and local communities.

We thank you for taking the time to consider this bill. We ask that you support HB 2668 to exempt farm products being sold at farmers markets from collecting sales tax.

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