



February 19, 2019

Chairman Johnson and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Kansas Beer Wholesalers Association, thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in support of S.B. 22.

My name is Casey Mussatto and I am an owner and general manager of Flint Hills Beverage, a beer distributorship with locations in Osage City and Manhattan. I also have the distinct honor of representing my fellow beer wholesalers as president of the Kansas Beer Wholesalers Association.

I want to first thank each of you for your service to our state. I know you are required to spend countless hours away from your loved ones as you work to make our state the best state in the nation to own a business, work and raise a family. Thank you!

I also want to urge you to pass legislation that would prevent a tax increase on Kansas citizens and business owners, including our state's beer distributors. Without the passage of S.B. 22 that is exactly what will happen. The majority of Kansas beer distributors are passthrough entities. Losing the ability to itemize on the state level tax return will equate to a tax increase and will diminish our ability to grow our businesses and invest in our greatest assets: our people.

Kansas beer distributors, like most businesses, benefit from a strong and growing economy. Therefore, I also urge you to adopt language necessary to prevent larger entities, such as C-Corporations, from experiencing a tax increase from the state of Kansas. We need a vibrant economy full of promise and potential to attract job creators and people to our state. Failure to adopt the language in S.B. 22 will likely cause investment to leave our great state and disincentivize those considering our state for their next expansion.

Passage of S.B. 22 will keep Kansas on a level playing field and encourage continued growth and job creation. I urge the Committee to pass this legislation.

Thank you,

Casey Mussatto
President