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Representing Shawnee and Wabaunsee Counties

January 22, 2013

Testimony on SB 7 – An act concerning alcoholic beverages

Chairman Ostmeyer, Vice Chairman Emler, Ranking Minority Faust-Goudeau and members of the Federal and State Affairs Committee:

Good morning! Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 7. This bill originated out of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations. The committee heard testimony on the rules and regulations necessary to carry out the massive "liquor bill" that was passed into law during the 2012 legislative session. The Kansas Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) has interpreted the law to read that no "mixing" can occur during the tasting of wine, beer and distilled spirits. While this may make sense in the case of wine and beer, it certainly makes no sense with regard to distilled spirit tastings. Currently a licensed retailer may NOT dilute the distilled spirits on premise for the purpose of tasting.

As your chairman and ranking minority pointed out during the hearing on the various rules and regulations, this was not what the legislature had in mind with regard to tastings. After consultation with the revisor that staffs the Joint Committee, the committee had SB 7 drafted. The revisor advised the committee of a few more technical issues that needed to be clarified, so they too are included in SB 7.

Thank you again for your time. I sincerely hope that the committee will advance this bill, without amendments, to the full body for consideration.

Sincerely,

Vicki Schmidt

VS/bb