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HB 2718

March 9, 2016

My name is Mike Moon. My wife and I own and operate 3 grocery stores in Kansas. Moon's Hometown Market in LaCygne, Humboldt, and in Osawatomie, where I live.

I'm not an unfamiliar face to you. I've long held that modern realities and modern consumers demand modern liquor laws. Instead, Kansas enjoys the distinction of having some of the most antiquated liquor laws in the nation. We are one of the few states that still prohibit the sale of full-strength beer, wine and spirits in grocery and convenience stores.

It's time to lift those restrictions, not go in the opposite direction as opponents to HB 2718 would like to see our state go.

The trigger bill proposed by the Kansas Beer Wholesalers Association ensures Kansas doesn't retreat backward in its need to modernize Kansas liquor laws. As a grocery store owner of three stores, I am not eligible by Kansas law to acquire a liquor store license. There are no options to me but to sell 3.2 beer to my customers.

Having beer products in my store are important to my customer base. The Kansas legislature taking this ability from me would pose a grave threat to my stores' viability. We must not be left without a legal option to sell beer. Hence, I stand in favor of HB 2718.

While opponents will try and make this about minors, I want to remind you every small grocery fully realizes we have a responsibility to keep alcohol out of the hands of our children, and have proven our reliability over decades of restricting the underage sale of beer, tobacco and lottery tickets.

When the opponents of this bill speak, their major point will be that this change in legislation will put their personal investment at risk. Like many liquor stores, small-town grocery stores are small, locally owned business. Like them, we have made significant personal investments to keep our stores running efficiently. And, like them, we compete every day for our customers. But rules, regulations and the needs of the consumer often change, and we—like *other* retailers—are prepared to adjust quickly when they do.

But we cannot as assuredly remain in business if beer products can no longer be sold in our stores. The Kansas legislature must act to ensure grocery stores are not left without a top-line product our customers expect to find on our shelves.

I urge you to support HB 2718. Thank you for your consideration.