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**Testimony before House Commerce, Labor & Economic Development Committee  
H.B. 2718 – Single Strength beer proposal  
Mike O’Neal, Kansas Chamber CEO  
(written only in support)**

**March 11, 2016**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee

On behalf of the Kansas Chamber, I am pleased to offer testimony in support of HB 2718. As members of the Committee are aware, we have appeared in support of legislation moving Kansas away from a closed market system to a more open market system on liquor sales. We support lifting outdated restrictions on the retail sale of beer and other alcohol products to create a level playing field and a consumer-centric environment where businesses large and small play by the same rules.

While HB 2718 does not, in and of itself, accomplish our ultimate goal, it is a positive step in the right direction toward what should be inevitable: the elimination of artificial barriers to customer choice in the retail liquor market. With HB 2718, it would start with moving toward sale of “strong” beer in our grocery and convenience stores as availability and sales of CMB’s decline.

We do have a question about the bill’s effective date. The bill should become effective on publication in the statute book, in our opinion. New Section 1 contains the necessary trigger language for implementation of the beer retailer provisions.



*“...to continually strive to improve the economic climate for the benefit of every business and citizen and to safeguard our system of free, competitive enterprise”.*