

To: House Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development Committee
From: Gratz Peters
Date: March 11th, 2016
Re: Support of HB 2718

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony to you today in support of HB 2718. My name is Gratz Peters from Erie. I am a life long Kansan and I have been a Kansas Convenience Store Retailer for over 38 years.

HB 2718 - Liquor Stores Owners vs Kansas Consumers of Legal Adult Beverages

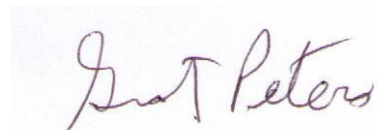
Legislation is quickly moving through the Oklahoma legislature this session that will allow Oklahomans to vote this November on their desire whether to allow "so called" strong beer to be sold by any licensed retailer, whether liquor stores, grocery stores, or convenience stores. **When- not if** - that happens, CMB retailers in Kansas are concerned that this is the beginning of the end for CMB production by the brewers. As Oklahoma sells the majority of all CMB produced in the country, it has long been said of CMB "AS OKLAHOMA GOES SO GOES CMB".

Liquor Store owners have long fought against any change to Kansas Beer laws citing their investment would be threatened. As a CMB retailer, I am also concerned about my investment when CMB goes away, perhaps as early as next year. When our beer doors go dark we will lose customers overnight. They will no longer enjoy the convenience and competitive prices on beer purchases as they do now. HB 2718 is a proactive attempt to keep this from happening.

The difference in alcohol content in "so called" strong beer and CMB is minimal when measured on the same scale. Eleven cans of liquor store beer have the same alcohol content as 12 cans of CMB. This alone should illustrate the trivialness of the argument as to who is and who isn't allowed to sell it.

I implore you today to weigh the impact this bill will have on your adult beverage constituents and whether you agree to them having a seamless transition, or not, to purchase their beer where they chose when CMB goes away. Please support HB 2718.

Thank you,



Gratz Peters
Pete's Stores
Parsons, Kansas