

MILDRED STORE

March 31, 2015

Dear Chairman Ostmeyer and Honorable Members of the Fed and State Committee,

A year ago my wife and I decided that since the grocery store had closed down, we should step in and fill the void the loss of the Charlie Brown store created.

She's an instructor at the college and I'm just a farmer, but now we're grocers too, and we're havin' a great time with the business. We're hoping to bring back a delivery service, currently have the ability for folks to do some grocery ordering online, and we're carrying the freshest foods in town.

What takes me away from the store today to stand before you is my desire to see Uncork Kansas legislation passed.

Without doubt, this bill will enable my wife and me to run a better business. When we can sell more of the products our customers want to buy, they're not going to have a reason to drive down the road to the bigger place. They'll know they've got an option with us.

When they grab their 6-pack of real beer, we know the odds are good they'll also get one or two more things. Every sale makes a difference.

It's disheartening to hear members of this body vow to protect liquor store owners at the expense of other Kansas businesses, namely my own and that of my friends who are also in the grocery business. Kansas is not a state where government condoned protection is supposed to occur. We're free market people.

Now's the time to illustrate just how much we value free enterprise. By passing Uncork Kansas legislation and giving guys like me a chance to better compete in my marketplace, you're sending a clear message that Kansas is indeed open for business.

My hope is you'll see the value in SB 298 and shy away from continuing to give a free pass to the liquor store owners and instead transfer opportunity and growth to those of us ready to compete.

We appreciate your time,

Regena and Loren Lance
Mildred Store Owners
86 3rd Street, Moran, Kansas