



Corporate Office

5114 Bristol
Kansas City, MO 64129

(816) 861-3333 Office
(816) 861-5555 Fax

Written Testimony before Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee
Senate Bill 298

Tuesday, March 31, 2015

As a small business owner, I am submitting this testimony to impress on you the importance of passing legislation to allow convenience and grocery stores the opportunity to sell legal adult beverages.

Presently, I own 2 liquor stores and 10 convenience stores in Missouri, each carries beer, wine, and spirits. I also own 1 convenience store in Kansas, but we discontinued our cereal malt beverage license because the product doesn't move.

In Missouri, one of my convenience stores sits next to one of my liquor stores. Both do well ... yes, a well-stocked liquor store and a well-stocked convenience store with alcohol next to each other and they both are profitable.

My partner and I have owned convenience and liquor stores since 1990. When determining our expansion, **we're consistently selecting Missouri based sites in the Kansas City metro area.**

We're responsible vendors of a legal product and people are purchasing it from our stores. Many are Kansans.

Would I like to sell in Kansas and expand in Kansas? Absolutely. Kansas is my home state. But until this body of government modernizes our laws to give Kansas an equal playing field, I, along with other investors like me, will continue to expand on the Missouri side, draining Kansas tax dollars from our state's revenue pool.

As legislators, your job is to craft responsible legislation that protects Kansans without stifling business. It's to foster growth and increase tax revenues, not restrict expansion and development.

Kansans overwhelmingly desire free market legislation. I trust this is the year you'll reverse the outdated and prohibitive adult beverage laws that have long denied Kansans their right to determine where they shop.

Respectfully,

Marty Klenda
Co-owner
Fast Stop Convenience Stores