

Millers Food Store

Sharon Springs, Kansas

March 31, 2015

SB 298

Dear Members of the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee

For thirty one years we have operated Millers Food Store in Sharon Springs, Kansas. It's been our life's work, a twenty four hour, seven day a week investment. We employ twelve people.

It's not an exaggeration to say we're the nucleus of our community. Grocery stores have that kind of impact on small communities.

We're proud of the role we play, grateful that we share a part in the lives of Sharon Springs residents. But our existence isn't guaranteed. There's no assurance to our future. Faced with declining population and encroaching competition, we are always looking at how we keep things afloat so we remain in business tomorrow.

In the midst of change and adaptation, however, we still fall short in meeting our customers' needs and taking advantage of a revenue stream that would be helpful to our bottom line.

Yes, we're like hundreds of other small grocers – we want the opportunity to sell adult beverages. Giving us the right to stock our shelves with beer, wine, and spirits enables us to better serve our customers. When they come in to buy their beer, they'll likely pick up their sandwich meat and toilet paper too. That's good for us.

Whatever gets them in the door helps us in our business. We want to sell what they want to buy, and yes, that is real beer and other alcohol products.

For the benefit of independent grocers, it's time the Kansas legislature recognize this bill is a boost to the small grocer. Our businesses have immeasurable value to rural Kansas. Please help us remain part of the community fabric by granting us the privilege of selling adult beverages. The additional revenue will have many positive benefits, namely our survival.

Sincerely,

Katrina and Scott Miller
Millers Food Store
320 N. Main – Sharon Springs