

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TOPEKA
HOUSE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

Testimony in Support of HB 2689
House Committee on Federal & State Affairs
Presented by House Democratic Leader Paul Davis
March 5, 2012

Chairman Brunk and members of committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of HB 2689. HB 2689 would amend state liquor laws to allow distributors to sell alcoholic beverages to railway cars and for the railway cars to serve the beverages.

We have an opportunity to attract a dinner train business to be located in Douglas County. It is estimated that such a business could draw over 9,000 visitors to our county also encouraging new business for hotels and other businesses in Douglas County.

There currently exists no mechanism by which such a business could obtain a liquor license in Kansas. HB 2689 will correct that problem, allowing such businesses to locate in our state. For the purposes of this bill, railway cars would be defined as locomotive cars used for the transportation and accommodation of human passengers that is confined to a fixed rail route. Each car would be required to display a framed license. The fee for such license would be \$2,000.

The bill also stipulates that 70% of the tax collected from such a business would be distributed equally to the counties through which the railway car passes or operates.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my support to HB 2689. I believe this legislation provides an opportunity for us to create new jobs and support existing businesses who would benefit from the increase in visitors to Douglas County.

House Federal & State Affairs

Date: 3-05-12

Attachment # 8