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Statement of Larrie Ann Brown
On behalf of the Wine Institute
SB 269
House Federal and State Affairs Committee
March 8, 2012

Thank you Mr. Chair and members of the Committee. I am Larrie Ann Brown here today representing the Wine Institute. Wine Institute represents more than 1,000 wineries and affiliated businesses from the diverse wine regions throughout the state of California. The mission of Wine Institute is to initiate and advocate public policy that enhances the ability to responsibly produce, promote and enjoy wine. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 269.

SB 269 would allow retail liquor stores in Kansas the ability to offer limited sampling of wines, beer and spirits from their own inventory. This bill is the work of several organizations and meetings and represents concessions made by both sides of the issue. It is modeled after a similar law in Texas that has been implemented with no difficulties in the administration of the law.

Virginia, New Jersey, Vermont, Maine are the latest states to allow sampling at stores. Our research indicates that 43 states allow some type of consumer tastings at retail premises. Although of course the laws vary from state to state, we strongly support the outcome of the work of the parties involved with this particular piece of legislation and we urge your support also. Thank you and I'll be glad to answer any questions you may have.

House Federal & State Affairs

Date: 3-08-12

Attachment # 3