



March 6, 2012

Chairman Brunk and Members
House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Topeka, KS

RE: S.B.358 – Alcoholic Liquor Sampling

Chairman and Representatives:

I am pleased to write to you today in support of S.B.358, concerning alcoholic beverages and proposing to allow licensed retailers to offer alcoholic liquor sampling by amending K.S.A. 41-308 and repealing the existing section.

Dark Horse Distillery was established to create new employment opportunities for highly paid research technicians in the area whose jobs were to be eliminated with the sale of an existing company to an out of state entity. This newly created entity retained these highly skilled individuals in the state managing the distilling process and will create additional jobs in the area with the addition of the public component for the tastings.

With approval of the proposed amendment, Dark Horse will bring additional dollars to the city and state by providing a Kansas alternative to the successful Boulevard Brewing Company located in Kansas City, MO, by offering tours, tastings, training, meeting and convention space, and receptions for individual and corporate functions. Dark Horse will be the single largest tourist venue in the city of Lenexa drawing additional dollars to the community. As proposed, the amendment will place Dark Horse Distillery on a level playing field with other venues in the area that are allowed to provide sampling of product on site.

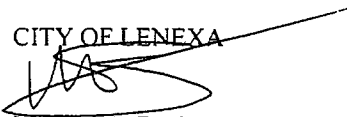
Dark Horse Distillery has invested significant dollars in the redevelopment of an existing office/warehouse facility in Lenexa beginning the process of redevelopment of a business park in an older section of the city. The proposed legislation will allow for the success of the distillery and the promise of additional investment in capital in the area, increasing property values and tax revenues.

S.B. 358 is the proverbial “win win” for the community and the state, supporting the retention and creation of jobs, expanding tourism within the state, and continuing economic development via capital investment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like additional information.

Sincerely,

CITY OF LENEXA



Michael A. Boehm,
Mayor

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Date: 3-08-12

Attachment # 12