

TESTIMONY BY RICHARD SHANK REPRESENTING ROSEWOOD WINERY ON SENATE BILL 379 TO HOUSE
FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, I am Richard Shank of Hutchinson representing Rosewood Winery of Great Bend. Mrs. Tammy Hammond, the owner of Rosewood Winery is in attendance.

We speak in support of SB379.

Mrs. Hammond owns and operates Rosewood Services, a business devoted to providing services for the Developmental Disabled in central Kansas. Rosewood Winery will foster opportunities for people with disabilities to work in wage earning environments which complement the Employment First Incentive of our Governor.

Current law requires Kansas wine to be made with 60 percent Kansas product. We feel this limits the winery business in a way that other industries are not. You can choose nearly any industry to compare. For example, if the construction industry was limited to only being able to build homes where 60 percent of the wood was grown in Kansas; if farmers could only plant seed that was grown in Kansas; or if a grocery store could only sell 40 percent of products that came from other states and countries, you could agree these businesses would be very limited and their chance of succeeding would be lessened.

We should be looking for opportunities to enhance economic growth in Kansas. We all understand that growth increases the tax base and employment opportunities as the businesses are developed and expanded, and are allowed to compete favorably with businesses in other states.

This should have no effect on the Kansas grape growers, if their product is competitive and of good quality they will not lose their market. It may increase the demand for their product as wineries grow and succeed.

We cannot tie an industry to an environment without resource. A drought, a freeze, or other act of Mother Nature could devastate a winery. In Kansas, we do not operate this way with other businesses.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for allowing Rosewood Winery to provide testimony today. We will be happy to respond to your questions.

House Federal & State Affairs

Date: 3-29-12

Attachment # 16