

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE
RE: SB 376

FROM: ROBERT MEUSCHKE
PRESIDENT OF KANSAS & MISSOURI COIN LAUNDRY ASSN.
816-809-8454

MR. CHAIRMAN & COMMITTEE: I APPRECIATE YOU ALLOWING ME TO COME AND SPEAK TO YOU TODAY ABOUT SB 376. I HAVE BEEN VOTED IN AS PRESIDENT OF SELF-SERVE LAUNDRY OWNERS ACROSS KANSAS AND MISSOURI. I HAVE BEEN PRESIDENT FOR OVER 10 YEARS AND HAVE OWNED A LAUNDRY MYSELF FOR OVER 20 YEARS.

CONCERNING SB 376 AND THE REMOVING OF THE EXEMPTION FROM SELF-SERVE LAUNDRIES I AM SPEAKING TODAY AND ASKING THAT YOU LEAVE THE EXEMPTION ON THE BOOKS.

SELF-SERVE LAUNDRIES IS OF A BASIC HEALTH CONCERN TO EVERY INDIVIDUAL IN THE STATE OF KANSAS. THE NATIONAL COIN LAUNDRY ASSN. STATISTICS SHOW THAT ABOUT 40% OF ALL AMERICANS USE LAUNDRY FACILITIES. THAT WOULD REFLECT ABOUT 40 PERCENT OF KANSANS HAVING TO USE SELF-SERVE LAUNDRIES TO BE ABLE TO WORK, GO TO SCHOOL, ETC. THE AVERAGE CUSTOMER MAKES APROX \$23,000 PER YEAR WHICH PUTS OUR CUSTOMERS ON THE LOWER END OF THE FINANCIAL SCALE. THIS MAKES THE REMOVABLE OF THE EXEMPTION TO BE A TAX ON THE POOR. OUR SOCIETY TODAY SHUNS THOSE THAT COME ACROSS OUR PATHS THAT ARE EITHER UNCLEAN OR HAVE FILTHY CLOTHING. BACTERIA BREEDS IN DIRTY CLOTHING. HOW MUCH IS IT A PROBLEM IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS SYSTEM DEALING WITH LICE EVERY YEAR. AND ON TOP OF THAT WE NOW HAVE BED BUGS TO DEAL WITH THAT PLAGUE MANY KANSANS.

SO THERE IS A GREAT NEED FOR SELF-SERVE LAUNDRIES IN KANSAS. WHICH LEADS US TO THE SERVICE PART. THE STATE OF KANSAS HAS US LOCATED AND LABELED AS A SERVICE ORGANIZATION. WE ARE NOT!!! BETWEEN 50 & 60% OF ALL SELF-SERVE LAUNDRIES IN KANSAS ARE UNATTENDED. (NO EMPLOYEES) WHICH MEANS THERE IS NO ONE THERE TO GIVE SERVICE.

WHAT WE PROVIDE IS EQUIPMENT THAT MIXES ELECTRICITY, WATER, & EITHER NATURAL GAS OR PROPANE TOGETHER FOR KANSANS TO USE TO CLEAN THEIR CLOTHES. OF WHICH THIS MEANS WE ARE A RE-SELLER OF UTILITIES OF WHICH WE RAISE THOUSANDS & THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS FOR THE STATE EVERY YEAR NOW IN THE TAXES WE PAY ON THOSE UTILITIES. SO REMOVING THE EXEMPTION WOULD BE THAT WE WOULD BE DOUBLED TAXED WHICH WOULD MAKE IT AN UNFAIR TAX TO EVERY LAUNDRY OWNER IN KANSAS. MANY OF WHICH DO NOT THINK THAT THEY CAN RAISE THEIR PRICES ANY MORE NOW

Sn. Assmnt & Tax
3-7-12

Attachment # 12