

Testimony on SB 379  
Senate Federal and State Affairs  
February 20, 2012

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

We speak in support of SB 379.

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 a wage earning environment, which complements the Employment First Incentive of our Governor.

The current law requires Kansas wine to be made with 60% Kansas product. We feel this limits the winery business in a way 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 if 60% of the wood was grown in Kansas; if a flooring store could only install products that are 60% comprised of Kansas product; if farmers could only plant seed that was grown in Kansas; Or, if a grocery store could only sell 40% of products that came from other states and countries, you would agree these businesses would be very limited and probably not succeed.

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

This should have no effect on Kansas Grape Growers, if their product is competitive and of good quality they will not lose their market. It may even give them increased demand for their product as wineries grow and succeed.

We cannot tie an industry to an environment without resource. A drought, a freeze, or a storm, could devastate the winery without a way to sustain themselves. As a State we do not do this to any other business.

Thank you Senator Brungardt and members of the committee for allowing us to provide testimony today. We will be happy to respond to your questions.