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Kieth Hand
Free State Vineyards
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SB379 Testimony in Opposition:

My name is Kieth Hand and along with my wife Cheryl Hand we own and operate Free State Vineyards LLC in Lawrence, Kansas. We are a licensed Kansas Farm Winery. We are opposed to the bills that would change the Kansas Farm Winery Act.

We are members of the Kansas Farm Management Association thru Kansas State University. I have been a member of this organization since 1995. We are first and foremost a Kansas Farm.

We are members of both the KGGWA and the KVFWA. Given that there was not a vote before the membership of the KGGWA to determine if this organization should or should not support this bill, we submit out testimony today in opposition.

The proposed legislation negates the fact that the Kansas Farm Winery Act was intended for use to promote farms and agriculture/agri-tourism in Kansas. This was a way farms could grow grapes and sell them as a value added agricultural product in the form of wine or grapes. If this bill is passed, it will allow any individual to bring in 55 gallon drums of grape syrup, load it off the back of a semi from anywhere in the world and after fermenting it for 7 to 20 days; sell it from a Winery in Kansas licensed under the Kansas Farm Winery Act. This does not support the intent of the Kansas Farm Winery Act nor does it help the rural development of Kansas.

It is our belief that If you are not a farm you should have a Kansas Farm Winery License, you should have a Manufacturing License.

Our business intent is to promote Kansas Grapes though exceptional Kansas Wine. When we went to the Finger Lakes Wine Region this summer; we went there to buy wine and taste wine from that region, not juice shipped in from California or Argentina. We believe the consumers want to purchase locally.

Respectfully submitted,

Kieth Hand for

Free State Vineyards LLC