

My name is Dan Watowa and I am writing on behalf of Cobblestone Vineyard in Atchison, Kansas. We have been growing grapes on a 8.5 acre vineyard for more than 7 years in Atchison County and are expanding this spring as well. We are in opposition to Senate Bill No. 390.

This bill would wipe out true Farm Wineries by doing away with the current 60% Kansas product requirement as well as vineyards in Kansas trying to support these Farm Wineries. We have worked hard and invested thousands of dollars to grow grapes for a local winery in Olathe, Kansas and have formed a partnership with them where they depend on us and we depend on them to grow and market a KANSAS product.

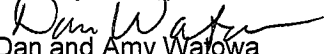
Making wine or blending bulk wine in our state from grapes that come from OTHER states when we have the ability to cultivate and produce wines in the vast majority of our state is unacceptable. TRUE Kansas wines should be grown, produced and bottled using Kansas grapes. We are proud of the outstanding, medal winning wines these KANSAS wineries are producing from our grapes as well as other Kansas grapes.

We strongly oppose this bill and hope local representatives would also oppose this bill and further the development of small business in Kansas. Kansas has a program called Simply Kansas in which promotes local products. We try to purchase everything for our vineyard locally whether it be post, wire, fertilizer, concrete, etc. Our volunteer pickers are local as well. Passing this bill would defeat the purpose and basic principle of Simply Kansas.

Alternative agriculture has also been promoted by the State of Kansas. If this bill passed as read, there would be little incentive to expand grape acres in Kansas.

Oppose this Bill and be TRUE to KANSAS produced products.

Thank you for your time.


Dan and Amy Watowa
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