



# City of Roeland Park

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March 7, 2013

Dear Chairman Kleeb and Honorable Members of the Commerce Committee,

The City of Roeland Park is always working to strengthen our tax base and ensure our residents have access to the goods and services they desire in a community.

When it comes to economic development, we're committed to growing, but we're hamstrung by the government. Antiquated legislation that only permits liquor stores to sell single-strength beer, wine, and spirits is a great burden to our efforts to recruit and retain retail business to Roeland Park.

In the past few years, Kansas legislators have worked hard to eliminate the laws that made Kansas a more expensive or restrictive place to do business, particularly in comparison to Missouri. Yet, a great divide remains when it comes to how alcohol is sold.

Legislators should support HB 2206. The law would give Kansas communities, particularly those in the northeast corner, the improved opportunity to recruit new business and eliminate the appeal that neighboring Missouri offers in regard to the sale of adult beverages. Moreover, it would keep Kansans shopping for alcohol in Kansas. By failing to pass HB 2206, we're allowing millions of dollars to be spent in Missouri that would otherwise have been traded in Kansas.

Grocery and convenience stores making decisions about where to locate are consistently turning down Roeland Park. Why? Our alcohol laws. The inability to sell single strength beer, wine, and spirits is a key reason they're locating on the Missouri side.

Alcohol is definitely a tool in a city's economic development efforts ... except our city and others in the northeast corner of Kansas don't have this tool to offer. Consequently, we're not landing new stores like Costco, Sam's Club, or even a Quik Trip. The towns on the Missouri side are opening these retail businesses instead.

Passing HB 2206 is critical to eliminating the unfair advantage Missouri has in economic development and to stop the massive loss of tax dollars to neighboring states Missouri and Nebraska where government does not control which stores sell adult beverages.

We appreciate your support of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Foster  
Mayor, City of Roeland Park