

Sportsman Wine & Spirits

March 7, 2013

Dear Chairman Kleeb and Honorable Members of the Commerce Committee,

As a small liquor store owner in Garden Plain, the proposed Uncork Kansas legislation is of great interest to me. Simply, I'm in favor of the bill.

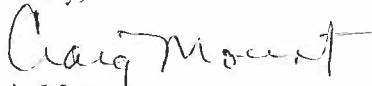
While liquor store lobbyists claim their efforts are for small stores like mine, they're truly advocating for the large liquor stores in Wichita and Kansas City.

I'm motivated to submit testimony for two key reasons. First, my business currently has no value as long as debate continues over who can sell alcohol. No one wants to purchase a liquor store until this issue is resolved and it won't be resolved until the Kansas legislature modernizes the law.

Secondly, under the proposed legislation, stores like mine could benefit from the buyout of our license.

Without the passage of Uncork Kansas, I'm stuck. Of course the liquor lobby paints a different picture, but their motives are different too. They sell more in a day than I sell in a month. They have a much larger profit margin to protect and of course they want to have a captive market. But while they're in Topeka saying small businesses are going to suffer, I'm here to say, I am a small business and frankly, until this law passes, my business has no value. How is that fair?

Sincerely,



Craig Mount

Owner, Sportsman Wine and Spirits
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Garden Plain, Kansas