

March 7, 2013

Dear Chairman Kleeb and Honorable Members of the Commerce Committee,

Much has been made of HB 2206 being a bill that only benefits the big box stores. While it will no doubt be an advantage to those stores, HB 2206 has the potential to greatly assist the small grocery stores in our rural areas that struggle daily to bring in enough to keep the doors open.

This is especially true in Gove County where I manage our community-owned Gcia (Gove Community Improvement Association) Grocery store. Alcohol sales could make a considerable difference in our bottom line. It could be the difference between Gove becoming yet another food desert in the State of Kansas or being a place that meets the nutritional needs of our aging population.

If our store closes, the people in our county will have to travel thirty miles for a full service grocery store. For a community of aging people, the loss of a grocery store has great repercussions.

I urge the Commerce Committee and House of Representatives members to modernize Kansas liquor laws for the sake of all small grocery and convenience stores in Kansas. We need the right to sell these products in order to stay open for business.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elaine Flax".

Elaine Flax
Manager, Gcia Grocery