

Wyldeewood Cellars Winery

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Dr. John A. Brewer, President 2-19-12**

Good morning Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Dr. John Brewer and I am the President and Owner of Wyldeewood Cellars Winery. I am submitting this testimony in opposition of House Bill No. 2223.

Wineries and Breweries are licensed and regulated by Federal and State Governments to ensure the safety of the beverages that are sold to the public. The unlicensed and unregulated production of wine and beer by individuals is allowed for their personal and family consumption and judging as long as there is no financial compensation.

House Bill No. 2223 would allow public consumption of unregulated and unlicensed wine and beer up to 200 gallons per year per producer. It would also allow clubs and drinking establishments to profit from the sampling and or tasting of unregulated and unlicensed wine and beer in the same quantities by charging a "cover charge" for all who wish to sample.

Amateur wine and beer judging are very important to our industry as a development tool for creating new licensed and regulated wineries and breweries. Recognizing this, the Federal Government regulations allow judging of amateur wine and beer but not public samplings.

The effect of House Bill No. 2223 would be the deregulation of beer and wine production for up to 200 gallons and consumption in Kansas, which we can not support.

Thank you for your time and consideration in the submission of this testimony.