

Opposition to HB 2200 Retail Alcohol Sales Expansion

February 12, 2015

To the House Commerce Committee:

I am writing you in **strong Opposition to HB 2200**. These Out Of State Corporations will not be hiring any new employees, therefore putting current liquor stores out of business and employees out of jobs. Raising the Liquor Enforcement Tax from 8% to 12% is NOT going to offset Law Enforcement and ABC Costs for regulating the large box stores as they propose it will. Allowing 18 year olds to sell liquor at retail will ONLY HELP THE BOX Stores and will put a larger burden on Law Enforcement and ABC. HB2200 will make liquor more readily accessible for underage minors to purchase, again laying more burden on law enforcement and ABC.

As the Kansas Retail Alcohol system currently stands - it is NOT a Monopoly as being portrayed by "Uncork Kansas". Kansas Retail Liquor Stores are not dealing in Price Fixing, Price Discrimination, Exclusivity, Boycotts or Tying Contracts. There is fair and equal competition among the current Retail Liquor Stores in Kansas. Kansas retail liquor stores do not meet any federal definitions for antitrust violations monopolies as portrayed by "Uncork Kansas"

Kansas' current retail liquor market allows for open trade, adheres to free market pricing principles and provides accessibility to those of legal age. They have created and adhered to an economic model that benefits Kansas.

Kansas retail liquor stores - KEEP THE MONEY IN KANSAS. It doesn't go to Cincinnati, OH or Bentonville, AR or West Des Moines, IA as the proposed HB2200 would send the money OUT OF KANSAS.

Alcohol is intended to be regulated, unlike bread, milk, cheese, toothpaste, toilet paper, etc. Kansans have determined that Alcohol should be available to its citizens of drinking age, but regulated closely. By passing HB2200 this economic model Kansas has adhered to and the regulations in place to keep our citizens safe will all go by the wayside. Big box stores will then have the Monopoly and Kansas will deeply regret conforming and caving to the almighty dollar of the big box corporations.

Please continue to support LOCAL BUSINESSES and help keep Kansas retail liquor stores in business and their employees employed.

Respectfully,

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