

February 12, 2015

Representative Mark Hutton, Chairman
House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee
Statehouse, Room No. 521A-E
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Re: Opposition to HB 2200, proposing expansion of liquor sales to grocery/convenience chains

Dear Chairman Hutton and Members of the Committee:

My name is Pam Burgardt and I am the owner of Burgardt Retail Liquor in Wichita, which I operate with the help of my son, Matthew, and 11 other employees. This business has been in our family for 52 years and 3 generations, beginning with my father in law, Cletus Burgardt, in 1963 and continuing in 1995, when my husband and I bought the business from him. Upon my husband's death 2 years ago, my son became involved; therefore, this business has been a very big part of all of our lives.

I am asking you to vote NO to HB 2200 because the passage of this bill would be devastating to my family, the many other families of liquor store owners across the state, and all of our employees. Not only would it be devastating on a personal level, but also on an economic level for small towns and the state in general. A negative domino effect would be felt from our employees on down to the local businesses we support and the charities to which we contribute in our communities. Locally owned small businesses are the backbone of our state economy; at a time when we should be promoting and nurturing them, selling them out in favor of huge out of state conglomerates in the name of "free trade" makes no economic sense.

I realize that the Uncork coalition exerts tremendous pressure on lawmakers year after year but they do not have our state's best interests at heart—they are merely greedy. Please resist that pressure and vote to protect your constituents and our state economic welfare from out of state corporate bullies.

Respectfully,

Pam Burgardt
Burgardt Retail Liquor, L.L.C.
3027 E. Pawnee
Wichita, KS 67211