



March 8, 2016

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Commerce Committee;

QuikTrip would like to add our name in support of House Bill 2718.

As you are aware HB 2718 would allow current CMB retailers to sell single strength beer, when this product is deemed no longer economically viable.

Currently 2 of the 5 states that operate under the remnants of prohibition are in the process of changing their laws.

Oklahoma is the lynchpin for change, and everyone in the business is keenly aware of this. Currently, Oklahoma sells 60 to 65 percent of all CMB for off-premise purchases. The effort in Oklahoma has already passed the Senate and a hearing is scheduled in the House in a few weeks. In addition, supporters of modernization have filed an initiative petition as a safety valve for voter approval on November's ballot.

Groups that publically support modernization are:

- Americans for Prosperity
- The Beer Distributors of Oklahoma
- The Oklahoma Grocers Association
- Oklahoma Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association
- Oklahoma Retail Merchants Association
- Oklahoma State Chamber of Oklahoma
- Tulsa Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce
- Oklahoman for Modern Laws
 - Both The Tulsa World and The Daily Oklahoman have written multiple supportive editorials
 - AND YES, THE OKLAHOMA LIQUOR STORE ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS THE PASSAGE OF SINGLE STRENGTH BEER
 - Most importantly the citizens of Oklahoma are ready for change, recent polling shows a 65% approval for change.

I recognize every state can be different in their support. However, it is intellectually undeniable that when Oklahoma changes this year, 3.2 beer as we know it, is going to go away. When this happens, thousands of Kansas retailers will be forced out of the beer business unless Kansas changes there laws. When you add the effort of Colorado which is likely to change this year as well, it further justifies why Kansas should change its laws.

House Bill 2718, simply allows companies like QuikTrip to continue to be responsible retailers of beer products.

Mike Thornbrugh
Manager of Public and Government Affairs