

March 10, 2016

To Chairman Hutton and Honorable Members of the Commerce Committee:

Affiliated Foods Midwest is a wholesale buying group that supports independent grocery stores in the Midwest, many of which are located in Kansas.

We know the challenges small grocers face and do our best to support their needs and help them maintain profitable operations. While we don't directly sell to our customers adult beverages, many of them have chosen to retail cereal malt beverages.

As such we have grave concern about the market changes in other states that could impact our customers' ability to continue to sell beer here in Kansas. We submit our support today in favor of HB 2718 in order to protect the stability of our members' grocery operations. It would be a great burden if they could not continue to sell beer to their customers and were left with empty beer coolers.

They depend on having beer in their coolers to meet the needs of their customers. Please take proactive measures to keep beer on the shelves in grocery stores.

Sincerely,

Mike Murphy

Affiliated Foods Midwest

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