

HALFTIME LIQUOR

15810-D Shawnee Mission Pkwy, Shawnee, KS 66217

March 29, 2015

Chairman Hutton and Honorable Members of the Commerce Committee:

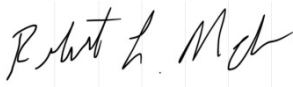
I'm a liquor store owner in Johnson County Kansas *in favor of the reasonable SB 298 legislation proposed by Uncork Kansas.*

I've been a liquor store owner for eleven years. It's a great benefit to me that proposed legislation includes a permanent cap. I like knowing that if this bill passes, I can sell my liquor license and walk away from the business if that's what I deem best for me and my family. It is getting harder every year to complete in this business as a liquor store because of so much competition which makes it very difficult for the smaller Liquor stores to remain in business and make a decent living.

Not everyone who owns a liquor store shares my view. I'm very aware of the threat many view this legislation. But if you really step back and look at what Uncork has proposed, it's hard to argue this is a bad bill to the majority. Existing owners can expand to own multiple locations, or choose to sell their license. Meanwhile, we have a few years to prepare for competition from convenience and grocery stores on beer sales. Most business owners don't have a three year head start to address new competition in the marketplace.

I hope you'll each take into consideration the sensible nature of SB 298. It's a fair compromise on an issue that Kansas has long needed to address. And will allow those who want out of the business an opportunity to be bought out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert L. Melcher", written over a light gray grid background.

Robert Melcher
Halftime Liquor
Shawnee, KS 66217