

STATE OF KANSAS

JAMES TODD
REPRESENTATIVE 29TH DISTRICT

9812 W. 118TH ST., APT #3
OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS 66210
(913) 568-8738

STATE CAPITOL BUILDING
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
(785) 296-7695
james.todd@house.ks.gov



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TOPEKA

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To: Senate Standing Committee on Federal and State Affairs,

The Honorable Ralph Ostmeyer, Chair

Date: February 16, 2016

Re: HB 2467

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the committee to testify on HB 2467, which would allow for Kansas microbreweries to produce Hard Cider under their current license. HB 2332 from the 2015 session started the conversation to allow hard cider production along with mead. I did some research and determined that the Federal Government made a regulatory distinction between hard cider below a certain alcohol percentage and cider in general. I approached the interested industries and they expressed a desire to continue forward with the matter in the more limited way allowed under Federal law. I introduced a new bill instead a substitute amendment to make the work easier for the revisors.

When I initially found the legal distinct in the Federal law Hard Cider was defined as having alcohol content below 7%. In December of 2015 a new Cider Bill was passed as part of the Omnibus Spending bill to close the year, which increased the Hard Cider definition allowance to 8.5%. It was not immediately clear when the new standard would legally take effect so the current bill was drafted with an effect date upon publication. The Revisor's office determined that the new standard takes effect on January 1, 2017 and I have requested an amendment to change the bills date to mirror the Federal law change.

Sn Fed & State
Attachment 1

2-16-16

This bill is about reducing licensing requirements in Kansas. Breweries will still have to comply Federal regulations and guidelines.

Thank you for the opportunity to talk with you.

With Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Eric Todd". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Representative James Eric Todd

District 29