

HB 2282 - OPPOSITION TESTIMONY

Dear Chairman Les Mason and Members of the House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee.

Please let me introduce myself. I am Michael Dick, co-owner of DJ Liquor in Hutchinson with my wife Laura Meyer Dick. DJ Liquor currently employees 3 full-time and 11 part-time employees. I am very concerned about the possibilities of what would happen if HB2282 is passed. Here are some of the issues I see happening if passed:

* Less selection as the grocery stores will only carry top selling items. liquor stores will need to make room for pop, snacks etc., so they will eliminate specialty items that sell sparingly.

* Loss of jobs for the liquor stores that can't compete with big box stores. These jobs will not be replaced at the big box stores.

* Minors will be held responsible for selling adult beverages.

* Local charities suffer as donations will be lost. We gave nearly \$7000.00 back to the community last year.

* Taxes on profits will go to the states of these out of state corporations.

* Local newspaper, radio stations, accountants, janitorial supply stores, insurance companies, landlords etc..., will lose business as big box stores rarely buy from local companies.

I always hear about how this business has a monopoly, but I had no problem buying a liquor store. As for a free market, I didn't get any incentives like the big box stores do. I compete against 7 other liquor stores in Hutchinson, much less than what Dillons has to compete against.

I know they say they want it for the convenience of their customers, but I say it is greed. I offered to put a liquor store attached to the new Dillons and they wanted no part of it.

I know I invested a lot of money to realize a dream of mine of owning a small business and I did so with rules in place and I know if those rules change it could mean the end of my business or another small business owner just like me. So I ask that you please support us in defeating HB2282.

Thank you,

Michael J. Dick
Hutchinson, Kansas
Mjdick10@cox.net