

Date: February 14, 2017

To: House Federal and State Affairs Committee

From: Eric B. Smith, Deputy General Counsel

Re: Support of HB 2141

On behalf of the League of Kansas Municipalities, thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of HB 2141.

The citizens of Atchison are fortunate to have a business that is wanting to expand and grow into a destination location for tourism by adding a new restaurant. Unfortunately, this desired expansion does not fit within the current statutory regulations for alcohol sales in the state of Kansas. The ability for an alcohol manufacturer to also own and operate a restaurant with a drinking establishment license is a new opportunity for economic development and tourism in the state of Kansas.

Many laws were created based on the needs of society at the time created. As times and society change, there is often a need to update laws to address these changes. HB 2141 makes a change in the statutes controlling alcohol sales in a limited manner to achieve the needed flexibility.

The League supports statute changes to provide an opportunity for local businesses to expand tourism and economic development in Kansas and request the committee move HB 2141 out favorably to the full House.