

Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association Testimony Supporting House Bill 2475 Scott J. Schneider J.D. House Federal and State Affairs Committee Tuesday January 23, 2018

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, the Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association supports House Bill 2475. The bill would clarify the conditions under which a microbrewer may sell alcohol for off-premise consumption.

The Kansas restaurant industry employs over 137,000 people and nearly one half of every dollar spent on food in Kansas is through one of our members businesses. Our association provides solutions to our industry for everything from food safety training to our self-insured workers compensation fund.

We appreciate the Kansas Department of Revenue bringing HB 2475 to clarify the statutes. Serving alcohol in Kansas is a responsibility our members take seriously and having clear, understandable laws helps microbreweries stay in compliance.

It is important to understand microbreweries have unique exemptions within the Kansas Liquor Control Act. Allowing an on-premise drinking establishment to sell alcohol for off-premise consumption is one additional exception to the general rule. Because of this unique allowance, having clear boundaries and expectations regarding the size and labeling of containers is a reasonable requirement. While we are not requesting any amendments to this bill, our industry would encourage this committee to be mindful of competitive imbalances between drinking establishment licensees and microbrewers.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation.