



HOUSE BILL 2766 SUPPORT

Written Testimony submitted to the
House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

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Downtown Topeka, Incorporated

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Downtown Topeka, like many downtowns throughout Kansas, has struggled for many years as retail and residential developments have shifted to suburban locations. Decaying infrastructure and empty buildings became the norm.

In 2008, thousands of Topeka citizens came together over many months to establish a vision for the future of the community. Their overwhelming number one priority was a revitalized downtown. Since then Downtown Topeka, Incorporated and many others have worked diligently to create a downtown where people want to live, work and be entertained. A public/private partnership brought new infrastructure and over \$4 million was raised from the private sector to enhance the City's investment.

These investments have led to renewed interest in downtown Topeka. A new hotel, retail, restaurants and residential developments are occurring. An entrepreneurial spirit has been awakened. The Brew Bank, featuring dining and wall-mounted automated beer dispensers is a new concept planned for downtown.

New technologies have brought many new opportunities to enhance the consumer experience. This dispenser concept is already successful in 46 states. Although self-service of wine is currently available in Kansas we have yet to add beer to the legislation.



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Topeka and other Kansas communities are eager to attract and retain millennials. The young entrepreneurs of the Brew Bank want to live and invest in Kansas.

We ask the committee to support House Bill 2766 to bring the State parity with the surrounding states that already allow for this business model.

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