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TO: Rep. Kristey Williams, Chair
Members, House Local Government Committee

FROM: Blake Schreck, President
Lenexa Chamber of Commerce

DATE: Feb. 9, 2017

RE: HB 2277 – Common Area Consumption

The Lenexa Chamber of Commerce appreciates the opportunity to share its support for HB 2277.

At the heart of the Lenexa Chamber's mission is supporting business growth and entrepreneurship. We believe the planned Lenexa Public Market represents an innovative way for our community – and perhaps other communities across the state – to help incubate small businesses and promote local products while at the same time creating a unique amenity attracting both residents and visitors.

HB 2277 recognizes the intended communal nature of such public markets – where tenant businesses may not have traditionally separate premises and instead share common seating/gathering areas that allow for shared costs and community ambiance – by amending statutes governing alcoholic beverage sales to provide for, under narrow circumstances, “common area consumption.” While there may be concerns still yet to be worked out, we believe this concept is key to fully realizing the vision and potential of ventures like the Lenexa Public Market and the success of its entrepreneurs and tenants.

For these reasons, we would encourage you to support HB 2277 and appreciate your consideration of our input.