



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2277 – AN ACT concerning alcoholic liquor; common consumption areas; cities and counties.

To: Rep. Kristey Williams, Chair
Members of the House Committee on Local Government

From: Topp'd Pizza + Salads
Chad Talbott, Owner

Date: February 9, 2017

Topp'd Pizza + Salads is a locally sourced and locally owned concept with made-from-scratch pizzas, salads, and small plates. I opened the first location across the street from the University of Kansas Medical Center in 2015. It is a concept wholly imagined and operated by me and I plan on opening a second location inside of the Lenexa Public Market this summer.

Topp'd is a fast-casual atmosphere restaurant with an open display kitchen building pizzas to order right in front of customers and offering counter service. Topp'd has offered since its opening a small selection of beers on tap as well as wine by the glass. I feature local breweries from the Kansas and the Kansas City area almost exclusively. A few Kansas breweries I have done business with include Free State Brewing in Lawrence, Tallgrass Brewing in Manhattan, and Defiance Brewing in Hays.

I would like to personally provide support on behalf of my business for HB 2277, as it will allow Topp'd the option of providing the same experience that my customers have come to expect from my business. Without the addition of an allowed area for common consumption, we will not be able to apply for a license in the Public Market, as all sales will have to come from a single location in the building (in this case, another vendor, who is planning on offering full bar service).

From the viewpoint of my company, this poses a loss of revenue due to the lack of alcoholic beverage sales, which are a common staple and expected in a typical pizza restaurant setting. There are hardly two other things that pair better than pizza and beer. From the viewpoint of the consumer, this poses a unique situation that is very difficult to explain to the average person, as to why their beer or wine *must* be purchased from a separate vendor in another location in the building.

Many customers will see the hassle as just not worth standing in line a second time for a drink after already waiting to purchase food. This will result in a guaranteed loss of sales for all vendors, and possibly even affect the overall return rate of customers to the market for repeat business.



The common theme of collaboration of local tenants in the Market is currently impeded by the current statutes by not giving the customer the best array of choices possible and restricting the convenience of a common purchase point for food and alcoholic drinks by multiple vendors. Many larger drinking establishments have multiple bars contained within one premise, just as the Public Market has proposed in Lenexa. The difference in the Public Market is that each point of purchase will be a separate entity. I trust that the members of the committee can easily see that what this truly amounts to is a technicality that can easily be remedied by the additions to the statutes that have been proposed.

I ask you to please support HB 2277, as it will help the success of my business and the overall vision for the Public Market. Lenexa is trying to bring something truly unique to the community by focusing on the local entrepreneurial qualities of the businesses involved, and I feel this is key to our shared success.