



906 South Kansas Avenue

January 19, 2017

House Committee on Taxation
Re: House Bill 2023

To Members of the Committee,

I would like to voice my concerns about House Bill 2023. Looking at how the 2012 tax cuts have helped my business, I feel that this bill is a huge mistake. I truly hope you will reconsider this action.

HHB BBQ is my passion. I take great pleasure in seeing the smile on a person's face when they taste my food for the first time. People coming back for more and learning about their passions and zest for life is what keeps me going day in and day out. My BBQ is a labor of love. Love for good food and good people.

Although my LLC was developed in 2009 as a catering business, in August of 2012 I decided to open my store in the 700 block of Kansas Ave here in Topeka. After the fire in January of 2015, every penny I had saved due to the 2012 tax policy was reinvested into my business to get it back in operation. My original operation consisted of myself and another person as the employees. Since opening the store at 906 S Kansas, I have had up to 7 employees on the payroll at one time. The incentives of the current tax policy helped in my decision to reopen my store after the fire. The money I continue to save keeps paying rent, paying salaries, and investing in the future of downtown Topeka.

In my opinion, any financial help to small businesses is easily justified by legislatures to be taken away because we aren't big business. We don't make huge profits that the big businesses make. Our employees are few. Our doors closing hurts fewer people. What if all LLC's close? How many employees are we talking about now? If this House Bill is passed, prices will have to be raised. This is always risky. I want to keep my meals affordable for family outings, but I can't do that when I lose money. Please oppose House Bill 2023.

Sincerely,

Edward E. Moege
Owner and Operator, HHB BBQ