

**Testimony as a Proponent
House Bill 2668
Kansas House of Representatives House Taxation Committee
Thursday, March 8, 2018, 3:30 pm**

Chairman Rep. Johnson
185-N Kansas State Capitol
300 10th Ave
Topeka, KS 66612

Novel idea for a lawmakers consideration. We hear many speeches and read a plethora of articles regarding the despair in society. Instead of bemoaning our shortcomings in society, I would like to plant a single seed of hope.

That seed is, "Farmers Markets, and how we can make it better." Truly grassroots in nature is a calling to connect with Mother Earth. When we hear and witness all the negativity about society in general, it's easy to overlook a diamond in the rough. Farmers Markets are a beauty to behold. You have local people manufacturing authentic products, growing nutritious food and selling it in a local market.

It is my belief that through a grassroots effort and help from our Legislators, the entire experience can be greatly improved, directly benefiting the communities. Customers and Growers network to form stronger communities. My proposal is to make the Farmers Market a tax free zone. "If a product is grown or manufactured in Kansas and sold at a Kansas farmers market, it should not be taxed." Please consider making it a tax free zone. We need to remove the barriers and make it easier to participate. The growers and the customers will thank you. The tax system is complicated enough without having to make a grower get a tax ID number and file as a business. I realize there are some professional growers and a prudent proposal may be to put a cap on tax free sales. By and large this is a Mom and Pop operation and these are the core of a good Farmers Market. The tax ID requirement is a roadblock to growth. We all encourage folks to get involved , then wonder why they don't. The loss of a few dollars in tax revenue to invest in the community is worth serious consideration.

Ask yourself...would you get a tax number and file as a business , just to sell a few hundred dollars in tomatoes?

Thank You for your time.

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