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Statement of Larrie Ann Brown
On behalf of the Wine Institute
Testimony opposing SB 175
House Tax Committee
February 13, 2017

Thank you Madam Chair and members of the Committee. I am Larrie Ann Brown here today representing the Wine Institute. Wine Institute represents more than 1,000 wineries and affiliated businesses from the diverse wine regions throughout the state of California. Our products are sold throughout KS to hundreds of package stores and restaurants. This volume of commerce supports business, jobs and adds to the state and local tax base.

The mission of Wine Institute is to initiate and advocate public policy that enhances the ability to responsibly produce, promote and enjoy wine. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to SB 175.

Our data indicates, as does the Department of Revenue's own data, that when taxes are imposed on specific products, overall sales decrease. This means local Kansas businesses are going to lose sales leading to lost income, which could result in loss of jobs and even possibly, loss of their businesses.

This loss of sales will greatly affect those stores located on the Missouri border. As most of you know, Missouri liquor taxes are already considerably lower than KS. KS residents will leave the state to purchase their wine and other liquor products. Not only will they leave the state to purchase their liquor products they will purchase other products including groceries, gas and other ordinary household items.

For the above reasons and many others we respectfully urge you to oppose this bill any other proposed liquor taxes that come before you. Thank you and I'll be glad to answer any questions you may have.