



Senate Bill 433 Support

Written Testimony submitted to the
Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee

Curtis Sneden, Executive Vice President
Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce

March 6, 2018

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce supports Senate Bill 433 which authorizes self-service of beer from automated devices. Current law already allows for self-service of wine. We are proud to support this legislation not only because of the exciting context in which this issue has arisen but also because it aligns with our organization's objective of modernizing the liquor laws of Kansas.

This has been an exciting year in the Capitol City due in no small part to a unique competition called Top Tank, in which local entrepreneurs competed for a \$100,000 prize in the form of an equity investment by a team of Topeka business leaders. These leaders are committed to using their experience and insights to spur small business creation and growth. The culmination of this highly-publicized contest was the awarding of the top prize to a group of entrepreneurs who are passionate about bringing a new-type of establishment to downtown Topeka. Their "Brew Bank" would feature dining and a wall-mounted automated beer dispenser offering local craft beers to customers. This bill will enable them to actualize this exciting concept.

The judges who chose these winners were not only impressed with their thorough market research and well thought-out business plan but also by their deep commitment to operate the Brew Bank in the most scrupulous way so as not to allow alcohol consumption by minors or over-indulgence by adult customers. The committee will learn in greater detail how the Brew Bank team proposes to utilize the automated beer dispenser, as well as the many steps they have built into their business plan to ensure full compliance with applicable laws and regulations. They are determined that their establishment will be community and family-oriented.

From the Chamber's point of view, these kinds of responsible, accountable business people are a great asset to our community and their vision should be encouraged. Their



Senate Bill 433 Support

opening will make a significant contribution to the growing momentum which is revitalizing downtown Topeka and their example will no doubt inspire similar visions all the across the State.

The Chamber's support of this bill goes well beyond a single start-up company. Our community, like so many others in Kansas is working hard to attract and retain the skilled workforce we will need to fill the jobs of the future and grow our economy. This will require us to work to make our city the kind of place in which millennials and others want to live, work and play. Establishments like Brew Bank, as well as, many of the other Top Tank contestants, are exactly the sort of amenity today's mobile workforce seeks. In this sense, their success will be our success.

We ask the committee to address this small adjustment to existing law because it will bring beer into parity with wine in this context and will, we hope, unleash the potential of this type of creative business model.

We urge you to support Senate Bill 433.

Contact:
Curtis S. Sneden, Executive Vice President
Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce
(785) 231-6025 ▪ csneden@topekachamber.org