

February 20, 2020

Memorandum:

To: House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee
From: Thomas M. Palace Executive Director PMCA of Kansas
Re: Support HB 2625

Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee:

My name is Tom Palace. I am the Executive Director of the Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association of Kansas (PMCA of Kansas), a statewide trade association representing over 300 independent Kansas petroleum distribution companies and convenience store retailers throughout Kansas.

I also represent the Retail Grocers Association and have their permission to include them in my testimony.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 2625.

HB 2625 would ban municipalities from enacting or enforcing ordinances that would ban plastic bags and other single use products.

Local ordinances have caused a lot of concern for our members. We currently have dealt with the tobacco 21 ordinances that were passed in 20 or so counties/cities. Basically, they have passed a regulation that a person would be required to be 21 years of age to purchase tobacco products. This differs from current law requiring a person to be 18 years of age to purchase tobacco products.

This regulation has caused confusion in the market especially if a retailer has multiple locations, which is why we support HB 2625. Our retailers don't need this kind of confusion.

There is legislation pending before the Kansas House of Representatives that is comprehensive, not piece meal regulations, that provides guidance for all Kansas retailers that sell tobacco products.

I am aware that several cities are considering a plastic bag ban which again causes concern for PMCA and RGA members.

I had a call from a retailer asking the status of local regulations and legislation that might ban plastic bags. He was in the process of purchasing plastic bags for all his stores (they are sold in bales) and he gets a better price purchasing them in bulk. I told him I did not know the answer.

I had another retailer call me and told me that they market in 5 states and they use 11 billion plastic bags per year and that a ban would have a tremendous financial impact on his stores.

You are going to hear many reasons to ban single use plastics, and if that is the goal, then we just ask for one comprehensive state law that is consistent from county to county, and city to city.

We cannot have bifurcated laws that have a huge impact on small and large businesses in Kansas.

We ask the committee to support HB 2625.

Thank You