

To: House Federal and State Affairs

From: Sydney Bannister, Management Intern

Date: February 18, 2020

RE: Proponent Testimony for HB 2596

I want to thank Chairman Barker and the Committee members for allowing the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2596.

Across the country, it is a relatively common practice for manufacturers of alcohol to have a restaurant or tasting room adjacent to their facility. This is a meaningful economic opportunity that allows businesses to grow into destination locations for tourism. Kansas alcohol manufacturers, however, cannot take advantage of this opportunity as it does not fit within the current statutory regulations for alcohol sales in the state of Kansas.

Amending state statute to allow manufacturers to hold a drinking establishment license will open this avenue for economic growth to Kansas businesses and communities. One community that stands to benefit from HB 2596 is Atchison. The ability for their alcohol manufacturer to also own and operate a restaurant or tasting room presents a real chance for economic development and tourism in their growing community.

Many laws are created based on the needs of society at the time. As times and society change, there is often a need to update laws to address these changes. HB 2596 updates current law to achieve the flexibility needed to realize this opportunity for growth and development.

The League supports the changes that this bill would make to current law and respectfully requests that the committee recommend HB 2596 favorably to the full House for consideration.