

Date: February 18, 2019

To: House Local Government Committee

From: Trey Cocking

Re: Support of House Bill 2239

On behalf of the League of Kansas Municipalities, thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of House Bill 2239.

The citizens of Lenexa created a vision to build a gathering place that offers a combination of restaurants and other vendors, along with a shared dining area. In 2017, the legislature created a statute to allow for “a common consumption area.” This allowed for alcohol sales by licensed restaurants while giving customers flexibility to go to the shared dining area or stroll through the shopping area with their drinks. While Lenexa may have been one of the first with its City Center area, other cities in Kansas have also found the “common consumption area” a useful concept in developing gathering spaces in their communities.

HB 2239 requests a slight update to the law. At the discretion of the common consumption area permit holder, restaurants with a valid license could be permitted to also sell drinks from a single, non-contiguous service area within the common consumption area. The common consumption area permit holder would determine where that service area would be; however, it would be contained in the existing common consumption area. For busier events, for instance, an additional area servicing drinks could be set up in the center of the event area to improve walking space for the event or more accessible service.

The League supports statute changes to provide an opportunity for local businesses to operate in a common consumption area and request the committee move HB 2239 out favorably to the full House.