

KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF BEVERAGE RETAILERS

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March 17, 2021

Chairman Barker and members of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today about House Bill 2417. I am the current president of the Kansas Association of Beverage Retailers and I operate Davis Retail Liquor in Wichita.

KABR respectfully requests the Committee support legislation to allow Kansas retail liquor stores to sell “growlers” to our customers. This legislation was passed by this committee and the full Senate in 2020.

Selling “growlers” to customers for consumption away from the licensed premises is a natural role for retail liquor stores as off-premise retailers. The sale of growlers will provide Kansas beer drinkers the opportunity to enjoy Kansas microbrewery products that are not currently available on our shelves because they are not available in bottles or cans. Our liquor stores are ideal locations for these sales and our customers are eager to buy unique products created by our innovative Kansas microbreweries.

It has been a pleasure to work with the Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association and the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control to develop reasonable guidelines for growler sales.

In April 2017, the Kansas Association of Beverage Retailers (KABR) endorsed House Substitute for SB 13, now known as the Beer Compromise. The primary reason for the compromise was to retain the clear State priority for the safe regulation of the sale of alcoholic liquor according to alcohol content within the three-tier distribution system.

Before and after April 2019, the Kansas independently owned retail liquor stores are the state regulated off-premise retailer of higher alcohol/strong beer and all wine and spirits products. It is imperative that Kansas retain this important role for our independently owned Kansas retail liquor stores for the sake of efficient regulation, public safety and for our small businesses.

New opportunities are very important to our members and we are eager to see this legislation implemented in 2021.

We appreciate the support we have received from the members of this committee in the past and are happy to answer any questions.

Brian Davis, KABR President

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