



February 17, 2022

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce and our nearly 1,500 members, thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of S.B. 493, AN ACT concerning cities and counties; prohibiting the regulation of plastic and other containers designed for the consumption, transportation or protection of merchandise, food or beverages.

S.B. 493 would prohibit a municipality from enacting or enforcing any ordinance, resolution, regulation, charge, fee or tax relating to the use of auxiliary containers, such as, a bag, cup, package, container, bottle, device or other packaging: Made of cloth, paper, plastic, foamed plastic, expanded plastic, cardboard, corrugated material, aluminum, glass, postconsumer recycled material or similar coated or laminated material; and designed for the consumption, transportation or protection of merchandise, food or beverage at a manufacturing, distribution or processing facility or a food service or retail establishment.

The Chamber stands in strong support of this legislation as a matter of supporting public policies that keep Kansas as competitive as possible when it comes to recruiting and retaining businesses. The Chamber supports uniform regulation across the state whereby firms doing business in Kansas with multiple locations are assured of a regulatory scheme that is both understandable and predictable. Cities creating a patchwork of regulations causes confusion and increases the cost of doing business in the state.

With this mind, we respectfully request that the Committee report S.B. 493 favorable for passage.

Thank you and I am happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Very truly yours,

Jason P. Watkins