

February 6, 2023

Kingman, KS

Kansas House of Representatives Taxation Committee

Chairman Smith

State Capitol

Topeka, KS

Chairman Smith and the Taxation Committee:

My name is Douglas (Pat) White and I and my family own and operate seven grocery stores in central and western Kansas (Kingman, Medicine Lodge, Lindsborg, Lyons, St John, Phillipsburg and Scott City). Our business was established by my parents, Joe and Frances White, in 1953, so we are in our celebrating our 70<sup>th</sup> year in operation.

I am corresponding in reference to HB 2111 and the proposal to move the food sales tax to 0% now rather than the three year implementation period.

Of course, all experienced the unprecedented (at least in my lifetime) inflation of many goods and services, including food costs and subsequent retail prices. Ultimately, the consumer bears the brunt of these rising costs and we all face tremendous pressure of the rising cost of living. Relieving this pressure in any manner would seem to be a logical step and eliminating the sales tax on food and any other appropriate goods will ease some of this pressure that affects us all and lower income families to an even greater extent. I would hope that partisan politics can be set aside in favor of helping all of the citizens of Kansas.

Another issue involved concerns the border counties of the state that lose business and revenue to neighboring states that have lower or no sales tax on food. Since we purchased our store in Phillips county in 1999, we have been constantly reminded of Nebraska's 0% sales tax rate and know that we and the state lose revenue due to the discrepancy. Our Barber County location may be facing the same situation as we read that Oklahoma may change their sales tax policy in reaction to the 0% tax on food in Texas.

Please consider accelerating the process to get to 0% sales tax on food to benefit our citizens.

Sincerely

D. Pat White, President and CEO

White's Foodliners