



Mr. Daniel Murray
Kansas State Director, National Federation of Independent Business

Testimony in Support of HB2446
Senate Committee on Federal & State Affairs
Tuesday, January 30, 2024

Chair and members of the committee, **I am pleased to testify on behalf of NFIB Kansas in strong support House Bill 2446 which provides much-needed certainty to many small business retailers.** NFIB Kansas is the leading small business organization in Kansas representing small and independent businesses. A non-profit, nonpartisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB Kansas represents the consensus views of its nearly 4,000 members in Kansas.

House Bill 2446 would prohibit municipalities from adopting or enforcing an ordinance, resolution or regulation that restricts, taxes, prohibits or otherwise regulates the use, disposition, or sale of auxiliary containers or consumer merchandise. The protected retailers include, but are not limited to, grocery stores, supermarkets, convenience stores, liquor stores, dry cleaners, pharmacies, drug stores, hardware stores, clothing stores, department stores and more. **These small business retailers are Main Street. They are the backbone of the Kansas economy.**

A growing list of states and hundreds of cities across the country have adopted bans or restrictions on single-use plastic bags and other products designed for food consumption and product transportation. Now is the time for the Kansas legislature to act before similar local bans proliferate in our state. Measures like HB2446 preventing container ordinances have been passed in at least 26 other states, most recently in neighboring Arkansas.

Many small businesses buy the products outlined in the bill in large quantities to take advantage of economies of scale. **Restricting their ability to purchase certain products drives up material costs which prevents small business owners from investing in capital improvements and increased employer wages and benefits.** Additionally, regulatory compliance is costly and burdensome. **Having a patchwork regulatory framework throughout Kansas most certainly complicates regulatory compliance for small businesses.**

Small businesses are managing challenges including labor shortages, rising inflation, supply chain disruptions, and the effects of existing government mandates and regulations. The last thing small business owners need is another local mandate which unreasonably restricts their business operations and increases the cost of doing business in Kansas. **This bill provides the regulatory certainty that our small businesses want, need and deserve.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments today and we urge you to pass out HB2446 favorably.