

March 5th, 2024
SB 511
Proponent
Monica Kelly
Owner and Operator
The Lumberyard on 56

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

In reference to hearing SB511 I would like to give you my experience in working with two different distributors to purchase product from local Kansas breweries. I own and operate The Lumberyard on 56 in Lyons. We opened in October and since then it has been difficult to obtain craft beers from local breweries we would like to support and highlight in our establishment. In trying to order kegs of Salt City Brewing Company beer from City Beverage we ran into multiple times where they did not have the beer we were requesting available. I took what I was told as truth because I don't see their inventory or know what they do in fact have available for me to order at any given. In getting to know more people in the craft brewing community I learned that that is not the case and unfortunately Salt City had in fact sold their product to City Beverage and it would seem that they had the inventory but would not release it. After multiple times of not being able to order what we were wanting I did open an account with Crown Distributors and asked if we could order though them to be told they didn't have any of what we were wanting in stock either

On a separate incident we started working with The Farm and the Odd Fellows in Minneapolis and ordered quite a few varieties of their beer as soon as it was available through Crown Distributors. I put my order in with my account rep. and she said her boss was asking if these from The Farm would be replacing any of their current beers that we have on tap or if they would be in addition to. I told her that right now we only had one of theirs on tap which was a request for a private event, and these would be in addition to. She said that they hoped they would be able to keep their big-name beers on tap in locations that were also ordering from smaller craft breweries.

Thank you,

Monica Kelly