



David Retail Liquor

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Written testimony

February 5, 2015

House Commerce Committee Members,

My name is Erna David. My husband and I own David Retail Liquor in Lyons, Kansas. Please oppose HB 2200. We purchased the store in September of 2005 to supplement my Social Security when I reached retirement age. I have no other income at this time and at my age it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to find another job if this bill passes.

We count on the store's income to pay the loan on the building and lot, the insurance, utility bills, accountant fees, maintenance on equipment and various other sundry items. We also employ several part-time workers. All of these are local entities and the money stays in Kansas.

Uncork Kansas touts that Kansas' liquor laws are archaic and outdated; however, every year the laws are tweaked and updated. As it stands now, any person who qualifies can apply for a liquor license and open a liquor store. My husband and I went through the application period and were vetted as qualified. After almost 10 years in business, I don't think it would be equitable for me to have to compete with large corporations and their buying power. Our profit margin is so slim now, that to compete with a store that has numerous other products that generate a larger profit margin would be impossible.

If HB 2200 passes, local small businesses such as mine will struggle economically to compete with the large corporations that want this bill to pass. Ours is only one of about 750 liquor stores in the state. All of the large corporations that we are opposing are from out of state and all profits will go to their home state. This means that Kansas will lose out on thousands of dollars remaining local and recirculating in the economy.

Studies predict that when large corporations move in, at least half of all small businesses such as ours fail within the first year or two. Please don't consign over 300 small Kansas-owned businesses to the scrap pile. Stay true to the intent of our lawmakers when Prohibition ended!

Please consider carefully the repercussions of this bill if it passes. Is the state ready to lose more money and put more people out of work? The state is woefully underfunded as it is. This is NOT the time to recommend funneling even more away from Kansas.

Thank you for your time and we certainly appreciate your efforts in this endeavor.

Sincerely yours,

Erna M. David
Co-Owner