

To: The Members of the House Commerce & Economic Development Committee

From: Jennifer Yochum

Date: February 7, 2012

I'm Jennifer Yochum, and I'm a resident of Lawrence, Kansas. I'm here today to speak on behalf of thousands of Kansas' consumers who support the Uncork Kansas bill.

I believe consumers should be able to choose where we purchase beer, wine or other alcoholic beverages. Updating the current laws would allow us to buy alcoholic beverages in grocery and convenience stores. And, it would permit us to purchase food items, such as chips, ice and mixers, in liquor stores.

The liquor laws we have now require us to make two trips if we want to buy groceries and get a bottle of wine for dinner. That wastes precious time. As busy as we all are, juggling jobs and families, that seems like an unnecessary burden to place on us. It's a burden that I don't think most other states put on their citizens.

Of course, I believe it's of utmost importance to protect minors. But, I think we can do that without continuing to restrict responsible adults. I feel confident that my grocery and convenience store can protect minors. I see them doing it now all the time with beer and tobacco.

I also don't think that allowing grocery and convenience stores to sell alcohol will erode the moral values of our families, as some have suggested. That idea just doesn't make sense. Families, schools and churches instill moral values. If we, as parents, have taught our children the values we want them to exemplify, will seeing a bottle of beer or wine in a grocery store erode those values? I don't think so. I might also mention that I have friends in Missouri and Iowa, and I certainly don't question their morals or values because they shop in grocery or convenience stores that sell alcohol.

I think I speak for many residents when I say I don't want the government to start dictating and controlling values, and I don't need the state telling me what is and isn't appropriate for my family. Likewise, I don't need government telling me where I can purchase alcoholic beverages. I am a responsible adult. I am able to make responsible decisions for myself and for my family.

As a Kansas consumer and voter, I want to see our liquor laws changed. I want to be able to choose where I buy adult beverages, rather than having the government decide for me. And, I believe grocery and convenience store owners will be competent and diligent in protecting minors. I know there are many others out there who feel the same way. I'll let them tell you about it themselves.

(Video will play here)

(At conclusion of video)

As a consumer, I urge you to support the Uncork Kansas bill. Thank you.

House Commerce & Economic Development

Date: 02/07/12

Attachment #: 2