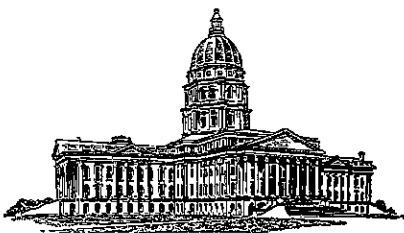


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Francis Awerkamp
State Representative, 61st District

February 28, 2018

Re: HB 2470 AN ACT concerning alcoholic beverages; dealing with microbreweries; amending K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 41-308b and repealing the existing section.

To: Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
From: Representative Francis Awerkamp, 61st District

Proponent Testimony

Mr. Chairman and Committee,

Thank you for the hearing on HB 2470 and for allowing me to testify.

HB 2470 allows a microbrewery the option to brew and package beer for another microbrewery. The Bill requires that each party involved in the contract brewing agreement count the total barrels brewed as part of their total annual production limit of 60,000 barrels (a barrel is 31 gallons). The Bill allows the contract brewer to return the beer to the original contracting microbrewery.


Early last year Mr. Sean Willcott, owner of Willcott Brewery in Holton, KS, asked me about changing Kansas statutes to allow him to include contract brewing as part of his future microbrewery operation.

Kansas alcohol laws allow only certain activities. If the law does not specifically state that an activity is allowed, then it is not. Contract brewing between microbreweries is not mentioned in statutes, so it is not allowed.

Contract brewing is not a new concept. Other states allow contract brewing in various forms. Allowing contract brewing between microbreweries removes a restriction on Kansas' microbreweries, allows our laws to reflect existing and emerging needs in the microbrewery industry, allows Kansas' microbreweries to have similar opportunities as microbreweries in other states, and allows for Kansas beers to reach a wider market.

Thank you again for the hearing and allowing me to present testimony on behalf of this Bill.

Respectfully,


Francis Awerkamp
State Representative, 61st District