

House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Proponent Testimony
on House Bill 2373 February 10th, 2023

Good morning Chairman Rep. Sean Tarwater, Vice Chair Rep. Jesse Borjon, Ranking Minority Member, Rep. Jason Probst and Committee Members I first want to thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony.

My name is Brent Aiello, and I am co-owner and operator for Aiello Fireworks

I am for House Bill 2373

I am for House Bill 2373, because the benefits, it could help small firework business like myself and others throughout Kansas. This would benefit a lot of people because instead of selling just 8 days of the year they could start sooner if they are seasonal retailer's and that helps small businesses like myself get a jump on firework season just like Missouri and Oklahoma. I know a lot of people that have come into my stand and state all they are looking for is stuff for their kids because they have already been to Missouri and bought fireworks for their 4th of July celebration. When I ask why, they tell me it is because they start selling sooner, or my favorite one, they say is I will just go to Missouri because they are open all year round which means they are cheaper than you, when in reality they are not that much cheaper than we are. Sure, they may be able to mark their inventory a little bit lower because they have the benefit of selling year-round, but we should support our State. When I hear people saying they go out of state to buy fireworks, I hear a Kansan saying they are going to go spend money in another state because they think it's cheaper because they are open all year round and can start selling sooner.

From my personal experience I always hear from people I wish you could be open all year round because I want to buy firework for a wedding, graduation, family reunions, New Years and the list can go on and on, but what I am telling you is, we have Kansans going out of state and buying fireworks from another state and spending there hard earned money in another state instead of spending it right here in Kansas and that just, just seems sad because we should all want to help Kansas as much as possible.

My understanding is one reason why Kansas doesn't sell fireworks all year is because it is a fire hazard and could cause more wildfires. I just wanted to state that if an annual retailer of fireworks is open all year round the times that they are going to be open are during wet parts of the year like we all know if you have lived here in Kansas your whole life the weather is tricky, but we already sell in June and July, which often is a very dry time of the year. But if you're annual retailer are going to have to take responsibility let people know that it's been dry, or we are in a red flag warning and state to the purchaser that we recommend that you do not shoot fireworks off right now, just like we do if it is dry during our Independence Day season.

I just want to state again that I am for House Bill 2373 and want to thank the Mister Chairman and the Committee again for taking the time out your day and reading my testimony, thank you