

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 Sarah Beagel and I am co-owner and operator for Aiello Fireworks

I am for House Bill 2373

As a firework stand owner I am for this bill for many reasons, the first reason I am for this bill is because having the ability to open an actual building and being able to sell all year round would be an obvious financial gain for myself and my company but not only does this have financial benefits for myself but also for the state of Kansas. We are losing tax revenue to states like Missouri who allow their firework retailers to sell year-round. As a seller of fireworks, I have had a lot of people tell me that they will travel to Missouri during the off season to buy fireworks for family get togethers, holidays, and special events. Additionally, both Missouri and Oklahoma allow for a New Years Selling season. Adding additional tax revenue. For instance, on February 2nd, 2020, just after the Kansas City Chiefs won the Superbowl against the San Francisco 49ers the National Weather Service in Kansas City posted on Twitter that the celebration was so big, fireworks were showing up on the weather radar. Selling year round should be allowed to because our great state already allows counties to decided locally if their residents can shoot fireworks, for instance the county I live in Allen, states that if the residents live in the county, they can shoot withing reasonable hours. Any additional tax revenue we can get coming in for our state should be encouraged, as I am sure you agree.

The second reason I am for this bill is the additional benefit of opening the selling season earlier. As of right now seasonal retailers may start selling on June 27th through the 5th of July. Allowing season retailers to start selling on June 15th through July 6th, though it is only adding 13 days to the seasonal selling season. It will add financial gain not only for the owners and operators of the seasonal stands but again also the state of Kansas. Fireworks is a way for people to celebrate and have fun. As a stand owner I constantly hear people tell me how much they love fireworks and the fourth of July, and that they usually start shooting early in the counties what they have left over from the year before. If we could start selling earlier, it would bring in more income for the businesses and more tax revenue for Kansas, which is always important.

I am not sure exactly what has prevented the state from allowing year-round selling, however I do want to talk about the most common question I get asked when I talk to people about year-round selling, the fire hazard. Although Kansas does have our dry times in which wildfires can run rampant, anyone who has lived in this state for at least a year knows our weather has a mind of its own, we are just along for the ride. We go from sunny and 75 to tornado warnings and storms, then flip to snow in two days. That's why we implement Red Flag Warnings and burn bans. We already take our precautions to ensure the safety of our beautiful

state. But again, the state already allows the individual county to decide on their individual shooting laws. So, people are already shooting fireworks year-round, they just aren't buying them here. Which again means we are losing out on revenue our state could use, to our surrounding states.

Before I release the floor, I want to again state that I am for House Bill 2373 and Thank you Madam Chairman and Committee again for taking the time out of your day and listening to me speak today, I greatly appreciate you for considering this bill.