



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS
TUESDAY, MARCH 4
PROPONENT WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY SB511

Chairman Thompson and Committee Members, the Greater Topeka Chamber and Visit Topeka comprise the Greater Topeka Partnership. Our partnership's focus is economic vitality for our region. To that end, we are writing today in support of SB511, Permitting Beer and Hard Cider Sales.

The microbrewery industry has seen tremendous growth over the past few years. Based on 2022 data, this sector contributes \$72.2 Billion to our national economy. Most craft breweries are small and independently owned businesses.

Trends indicate that more and more people are turning micro-brewers into a destination, more commonly known as Brew Tourism. With several individuals coming from neighboring states and even abroad. In Kansas specifically, the economic impact made by the brewery industry is just shy of \$520 million.

Breweries allow for unique creations and attract tourism from all over. In any community, they can attract people who would otherwise not stop in the community, which in turn helps spur traffic for local hotels and restaurants.

As a Chamber of Commerce, we believe in the value and importance of small businesses as the true backbone of our economy. Furthermore, we believe in a free market that would allow them to compete for their success. This bill enables the small microbrewer to be able to distribute their products in a monitored and regulated environment.

We urge the committee to support the passage of SB511.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Greater Topeka Chamber