



March 5th, 2024

SB 511

Proponent

Jenny Russell

Republic County Economic Development Director

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

I am the Economic Development Director for Republic County. I am writing this in support of Irrigation Ales located in Courtland. I have learned of a Legislative initiative for 2024 session regarding a change that would allow Kansas microbreweries the option to sell and deliver their products to retailers and drinking establishments directly. This change would be a major boost for the stability and growth of Irrigation Ales' business.

The discussed proposal does not change any statutes regulating or defining beer distribution or out-of-state brewery activity. Those laws would stay the same. Rather, the proposal only helps our state's microbreweries by allowing them to utilize beer distributors or sell their products themselves. This initiative has already included work from other Legislators and involved the Department of Alcohol Beverage Control early to establish it as smoothly as possible. Because of the work already accomplished, I expect this process to move a little more easily.

I ask for your support on this bill. The consensus of what success means in economic development used to be landing a large manufacturer. In Republic County, we consider success starting small businesses and growing these small businesses. Irrigation Ales, located in our county, would be able to grow and expand more quickly due to their ability through this bill to distribute their product more readily.

We are very excited about this effort and hope you share in our support for our small businesses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jenny Russell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jenny" and last name "Russell" clearly distinguishable.

Jenny Russell

Republic County Economic Development Director