KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF BEVERAGE RETAILERS

P.O. Box 3842, Topeka, KS 66604 785-969-1617

Testimony in support of HB 2417 to the House Federal and State Affairs Committee March 17, 2021

Chairman Barker and Members of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to support HB 2417. We began this effort with the Senate committee in the 2019 Legislative Session and the bill passed the Senate and House committee in 2020. Kansas liquor stores are eager to find options to attract and retain customers following the implementation of the 2019 Beer Law, that shifted a large portion of beer sales to grocery and convenience stores.

What are we talking about? Growlers are refillable containers used for beer. Most often, these are made from dark brown glass and are 64oz. They resemble a larger bottle or jug. The smaller 32oz versions are called howlers. Sold only at Kansas microbreweries today, you'll find these at breweries with their logo on them. They have metal screw lids and are quite simple in appearance and function. In addition to glass, there are growlers made from stainless steel and other materials that keep the beer cold and fresh longer. Crowlers are quite a bit different but accomplish the same goal. They are 32oz cans that can be filled and sealed onsite. Just like a normal sized can; once opened, it can't be resealed so it should be consumed immediately.

We believe that selling these products in retail liquor stores will be a benefit to our customers and craft brewers, as well as our small businesses.

We would be happy to answer questions and look forward to working with the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control for implementation of this new opportunity once it has passed the Legislature.

Thank you,

Amy A. Campbell Executive Director