

KIER ENTERPRISES, INC.
126 EAST 2ND STREET
WASHINGTON, KS 66968

House Committee on Taxation
RE: House Bill 2720

Mr. Chairman & Committee:

My name is Travis Kier, owner and operator, of supermarkets located in the cities of Mankato, Washington, and Clay Center. My family and myself have been in the grocery business since 1908 and I am currently the 5th generation to serve our customers in each of the communities.

As a retailer operating grocery stores on highway 36 and near by Clay county we continually see customers who leave Kansas to drive to neighboring Nebraska to avoid paying sales tax on food. This tax results in a competitive disadvantage to compete with no food tax in Nebraska. This potential loss of sales encompasses greater effects than just the sale of food. Customers spend money in other communities which potentially could be and should be sold here in the state of Kansas. This once again is a net loss of each local Kansas business and government of possible revenue. We are asking not for a hand out but a hand up so we might encourage local customers to shop more at home and **NOT** be at a competitive disadvantage based on state tax policy so we can fairly compete.

Since this topic has been in the local and state news I have had customers tell me that as soon as the food tax is eliminated they intend to return.

My last point is why should all Kansas residents to be penalized to pay food tax when each of the four contiguous states that surround Kansas don't have tax on food. We as Kansans get penalized for being resident of our great state.

To summarize, I support House Bill 2720, which will help level the competitive landscape and assist in the slow down of Kansans flocking to other states to purchase food and other goods which could and should be sold here in our great state.

Respectfully,
Travis Kier
President of Kier Enterprises, Inc.
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