



Testimony of Michael K. McVey  
Proponent House Bill 2291  
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7 February, 2023

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Mike McVey, a founder, owner and brewer at Transport Brewery in Shawnee, Johnson County, Kansas.

From our opening in 2019 until the summer of 2022, our brewery was friendly to friendly dogs. We allowed dogs in our tap room and on our patio spaces. Our patrons with dogs enjoyed the opportunity to bring their pets with them when stopping in to try fresh, craft beer. Our patrons overall enjoyed the culture and company of the dogs in the tap room. The dogs became part of the culture of the brewery, including fundraisers for pet adoptions and care centers, and even a dog picture calendar.

Sometimes the dogs cause issues in the brewery. We are prepared for those. Most owners are quite responsible in that regard. Sometimes non-canine patrons cause issues in the brewery, also.

In summer, 2022, a new Department of Agriculture inspector advised the brewery that the state no longer allowed dogs inside the tap room. There is a mechanism to get a variance to allow dogs on the patios.

The brewery has since posted signs to advise patrons that they can no longer bring their pets to the brewery. Exceptions are made for service dogs.

The economic impact on the business of the brewery is both noticeable and difficult to calculate. We no longer have families or groups of friends whom visit the brewery together to visit one another's pets. The pets no longer attend holiday parties in their Chiefs or Christmas sweaters.

The brewery has had an outpouring of concern over this change, which we have not been able to address. No one seems aware of any particular health hazard generated by a dog in a brewery taproom.

Since I have spent a lifetime stepping over a dog in the middle of my own kitchen floor, I am interested to learn of the perceived health hazard involved. I support putting the past waiver requirements into statute so we have some certainty moving forward. I support HB 2291 and ask the committee to pass it out favorable.