

Emerald Prairie Nursery

March 27, 2012

RE: SB 329

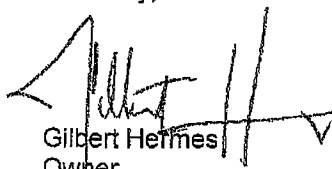
Dear Chairman Brunk,

On behalf of Emerald Prairie Nursery, the staff and their families, as well as my family, I want to express our support for SB 379 and SB 390. We request that you work to pass these pieces of legislation. Kansas has a very bright future as a wine producing state, but the current 60/40 rule is limiting its growth. SB379 would reduce the in-state fruit requirement to 20% from 60%.

We planted a substantial amount of vineyard in 2006. We are looking forward to releasing our first vintage of wine this spring. We do not quite produce enough grapes to make our winery sustainable. The nursery portion of our business is tied to the construction industry which has been challenging. Consequently, we do not have the means to expand the vineyard. And there simply are not enough grapes available in Kansas to meet the demand of the few wineries that are here.

As Chairman of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee, you have the power to make awesome things happen in the Kansas wine industry and agri-tourism, generally, by hearing, working and supporting SB 379. We hope you will. Thank you for your consideration, your leadership, and your service to our great State.

Sincerely,


Gilbert Hermes
Owner

House Federal & State Affairs

Date: 3-29-12

Attachment # 31