

To: The House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

SB379 Opponent

March 28, 2012

Submitted by: Mandy Hampton

Chairman Brunk and Honorable members of the Committee,

I am a representative of a 16 acre vineyard and boutique winery (Holy-Field Vineyard & Winery) in Basehor, KS. **I am strongly opposed to SB379.** The intent is to remove the agricultural requirement (60% Kansas grown grapes) from the Kansas Farm Winery license to only 20%. We are a farm winery and we grow our own grapes. We are proud of the award winning wines that the fruit of Kansas has yielded us and other Kansas Farm Wineries. It is this connection that distinguishes us and give us "terroir"- comes from the word *terre* "land". It was originally a French term in wine used to denote the special characteristics that the geography, geology and climate of a certain place bestowed upon particular produce. Elimination of the fruit requirement would break this bond with the end result being loss of our Kansas product & our Kansas identity.

Changing the ag requirement from 60% to 20% takes the Farm out of Farm Winery. Wineries that don't want to use 60% Kansas grown grapes already have an option for a different license; it is called a Manufacturer's License. It seems that the people who want to take the farm out of farm winery don't want to be a manufacturer of wine because then they lose the Tasting Room and self distribution benefits that were intended for a value added agriculture product produced by a Farm Winery. Farm wineries in Kansas are also allowed to hold both a farm winery license and manufacturer's license. Even if a farm winery can not meet the 60% ag requirement they are eligible for a variance from the Director of Alcohol Beverage Control. It is my understanding that a variance has never been denied and as recently as 3 weeks ago a variance was granted to a winery upon their request. Please help us keep the agriculture in Kansas wine and choose to vote against SB379.

A brief was written by the Office of the Revisor regarding what changes to the farm winery bill could cause. It specifically states that any change in the amount of the ag requirement could cause a legal challenge. This is because the further Farm Wineries are removed from ag, the more we are like manufacturer's. If we become too much like a manufacturer, then we could potentially lose our rights to self distribution. This will harm the farm wineries and put the interest of manufacturer's over the interest of Kansas farmer's.

We are farmers and proud of our true Kansas agricultural product (wine). Wine is a regional product and we believe it should be made with grapes grown in Kansas otherwise it is simply fermented juice imported from another state. Keep Kansas wine a Kansas product and support the farmer's and winemaker's who grow the grapes. **Please vote NO on SB379.**

Thank you,
Mandy Hampton
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Kansas City, Kansas 66104

House Federal & State Affairs

Date: 3-29-12

Attachment # 42