

March 28, 2012

SB379 Opponent

House Federal & State Affairs Committee

Dear Chairman and Committee,

I have vineyards in Edwardsville, KS to sell to wineries in the state of Kansas. I am opposed to SB 379.

All states have protectionism statutes of one form or another which allow businesses to thrive and grow within a state. All farm wineries in California must use 85 percent of grapes grown in the state of California. Try to determine how many grapes they would buy from Kansas as opposed to the proponents who want to buy grapes from California?

All this bill will do is take business money and tax revenue out of this state. I will not be expanding my vineyards or infrastructure anytime soon until this bill and others fail to keep coming forward. I don't think this helps the state of Kansas agriculturally, nor, the local businesses that I buy my equipment and supplies from. We must be able to keep the "Farm" in Farm winery. Please help to insure our agritourism becomes stronger and not weaker by opposing SB 379.

Besides.....the proponents for this bill have the ability to become a manufacturer instead of a farm winery.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Richard Mason, CEO
RMason Enterprises, Inc.
Edwardsville, KS

House Federal & State Affairs

Date: 3-29-12

Attachment # 44