

To the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Senate Bill #'s 379 and 390

Testimony from Dr. Tom Miesse 02/21/2012

I have some property in the Kansas River Valley east of Lawrence on 15th Street almost to Eudora. We have started the long process of planting around 90 acres of grapes. I just put an irrigation well that will produce about 700 gallons per minute. The next process is to level the land with the help of an excavation company, then plant the grapes and build the trellis. The cost per acre for a vineyard as read in a publication from the University of Arkansas is \$8,000,

I have a couple of California investors who are ready to get involved in this project.

If the bills pass we just as well forget about growing grapes and just continue with row crops. The investors aren't interested in row crops so that will be off. Other States will benefit from the juice and wine sold to Kansas Farm Wineries not us.

If the bills fail the State of Kansas will benefit from more income being generated from grapes than row crops. There is also a value added component when you turn grapes into wine. A large benefit is the increase in jobs due to the large amount of hand work that is required in a vineyard. More specialty crop equipment will be needed and tractor businesses to keep them running.

Please keep the Kansas Farm Winery Statute intact which will keep our connection to Kansas agriculture. We have a very good bill as it has been since 1985 and we depend on this staying the same due to the long range planning and then developing of our vineyard.

Grapes are a very high input crop that requires much knowledge. This knowledge has taken years to learn and now we feel we are ready. Many who talk about growing grapes just don't realize what efforts are required to become successful.

Cordially,

Dr. Tom Miesse

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House Federal & State Affairs

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Attachment # 52