

Representative Mark Hutton, Chairman

House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee

We are Lance and Jennifer Vogel. We own Rogers Wholesale Liquor and Black's Liquor, LLC in Kansas City, Kansas.

Our lives have been intertwined with the adult beverage business for most of our lives. Jennifer has been part of Rogers Wholesale Liquor for over 43 years. We are third generation owners, having purchased the business from Rod and Marylyn Rogers, Jennifer's parents in 2000. Lance worked at the distributor level for 15 years prior to the purchase of Rogers Wholesale Liquor. We purchased Black's Liquor in 2005. We employ 26 people between the 2 stores.

House Bill 2200 once again has created an atmosphere of doubt and anxiousness among our employees. As is the case with most retail workers, living paycheck to paycheck is a way of life. The thought of losing their jobs, especially to an out of state monster corporation like Wal-Mart , Dillon's or Hy-Vee is a very scary thought to them and to us.

HB 2200 attempts to give retailers time to get out of their lease and exit the business. We will go down with the ship because we own our own buildings.

Our stores are located in urban areas that have a lot of foot traffic. The convenience store that we own, which is next to Rogers Liquor, is frequented by lots of children purchasing candy and snacks after school. We have never had a problem separating our grocery items from our liquor store. And the notion of children shopping in liquor stores in our area is something to be taken into consideration, when deciding if it is a good idea to expand the sale of a controlled product like alcohol.

Our business plays an important role in our community. We don't hesitate to help with many charitable causes including, Make a Wish Foundation, St. Judes, Sunflower House Safe Haven, KC Cause, Cancer Action, KU Med Center, Urban Scholastic Center, Helpful Holes Fore Health, CLJ Foundation, Humane Society of Kansas City, Alzheimer's Foundation and a local girl's youth basketball team.

Strong beer, by itself, is a poison pill for liquor stores. With several hundred going out of business the value of a license would be extremely low.

As lifelong Kansan's, we strongly urge you to oppose HB 2200. The market share and profits that would go to out of state corporations is not more important than the jobs and financial futures of ourselves and our 26 employees and their families.

Lance and Jennifer Vogel

Rogers Wholesale Liquor

Black's Liquor, LLC

Kansas City, KS

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