

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office

Jeffrey L. Herrig, Sheriff

1360 Walnut, Oskaloosa, KS 66066



Robert Chartier, Undersheriff

Administrative Phone (785) 863-2765

February 7, 2012

From: Sheriff Jeff Herrig

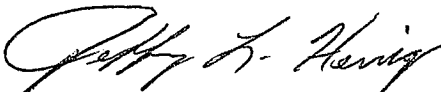
Re: Opposition to HB 2532

The current language of House Bill 2532 will have the effect of changing the 1800 plus off premise cereal malt beverage licensees that are currently licensed and regulated by the cities and counties of Kansas into wine and strong beer outlets immediately (2013) and many into full fledged liquor retailers by 2016 whose licensing and regulation will rest with the State.

Pursuant to current laws, a portion of the sales tax revenues from the sale of CMB return to the cities and counties. The county's general fund maintains a special alcohol and drug program fund which Jefferson County law enforcement currently utilizes to support our drug and alcohol enforcement programs. Those sales tax revenues are certain to be diminished. The bill anticipates sharing a portion of increased liquor enforcement taxes with cities and counties – that formula is based on population. Jefferson County does not have a large population, but we do see significant cereal malt beverage sales due to our proximity to Perry Lake and the state park. (Kansas state parks allow only cereal malt beverage consumption.) A population based formula is unlikely to fully compensate Jefferson County for the change in buying practices and the associated enforcement costs.

The funds allocated by House Bill 2532 will be open to appropriation by the State. The ability of the State to appropriate these funds provides no guarantee that the City or County would receive these funds. This certainty would jeopardize the ability of our Department to continue to combat the alcohol and drug abuse in this county. We already see an alarming number of underage drinkers and I believe that this bill could possibly open up even more underage drinking with the consumption of stronger alcohol, with the sales being conducted by younger employees.

I respectfully urge the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee not to pass House Bill 2532 out of committee.


Jeffrey L. Herrig, Sheriff
Jefferson County Kansas