

Michael Dick - DJ Liquor

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Representative Mark Hutton, Chairman

House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee

Hi, my name is Michael Dick and along with my wife Laura we own DJ Liquor in Hutchinson, KS. We purchased this 44 year old business 4 years ago, realizing a lifetime dream of mine of owning my own business. So far it has been worth the investment and very rewarding as we have been able to give back to the community upwards of 7K – 10K each year to charitable organizations. We currently have 3 full-time employees and 11 part-time employees that all depend on this job to make ends meet. If HB2200 passes I can guarantee that some, if not all will lose their job and will not be able to get on at a big box store as they will not increase their workforce. We use a local insurance, refrigeration, janitorial supply and office supply companies to name a few. We're just a good ole mom and pop store that gives great service and makes sure that liquor laws are enforced as they should be.

I know that the main reason the big box stores say they want HB2200 to be passed is for the convenience of their customers. I just don't believe it. I offered to put a liquor store that would be accessible indoors to the new Dillons in Hutchinson and they wanted no part of it. They want the money for themselves. I also keep hearing if we pass this, there will be no need to go to Missouri to buy liquor cheaper. I don't agree with this either. One of my managers moved to Kansas City and runs a liquor store in Missouri. He can sell it cheaper than what I can buy it for in many instances. That will not change. I do know that I can't compete with Dillons, Walmart, Target, K-mart and Walgreens that would have the opportunity to sell liquor. They can afford to lower prices for a while to run out the competition. Also I have a full store now. Not sure where I am going to put the other products they say I can now sell if this passes. The only choice would be eliminate the slow moving items, and that would mean less selection of unique scotch, vodka, bourbon or wine for example. The public loses if that happens.

Thank you for your time reading this and hope it will give you some insight on the little guy's perspective on this issue and why Kansas liquor laws need to stay the same.

Thank you,

Michael J. Dick

