

Testimony in Opposition of SB379

(14)

Senate Federal & State Affairs Committee

February 21, 2012

Submitted by: Michelle Meyer, Holy-Field Vineyard & Winery, 18807 - 158th St., Basehor, KS 66007 (Leavenworth County)

I am also president of the Kansas Viticulture & Farm Winery Association

The KVFWA and Holy-Field Vineyard & Winery oppose SB379 in its entirety.

Removing lines 15-21 from the Farm Winery bill removes any requirement for wineries to use Kansas grown grapes in Kansas wine. If there aren't any Kansas grapes in Kansas wine then what kind of wine is it? And how does that benefit a Kansas Farm Winery, and more importantly we would lose the FARM from Farm Winery. The Farm Winery bill was first and foremost an agriculture bill designed for farmers/grape growers to make a value added product (wine) from their vineyards. It was not designed to "make more wine." If a consumer purchases wine from a Kansas winery shouldn't that consumer also realistically and rightfully expect that it was made from Kansas grapes?

Wineries or potential winery owners who don't want to use Kansas grapes already have another option. It is called a Manufacturer's License. This license has no Kansas grape requirement and the licensee's can make wine from any source they want. It is not necessary to change the law.

Line 22 (c) Definition of Production. This definition is too broad. This would make a Kansas Farm Winery a brewery, distillery and spirit maker all in one. This sounds more like a license to manufacture than to make wine as a farm winery.

Line 28 (d) This is redundant. Kansas wineries and all US wineries are already required to have Federal label approval through the Alcohol, Tobacco, Tax & Trade Bureau. Labeling is not a state issue. All wine labels are approved by the TTB and the KS ABC has copies of the labels.

It is important to keep the farm in farm winery. Wine is a regional product with a regional identity, it is called "terroir" by the French. I don't know of any French wines that made a name for themselves by using grapes from Italy. I am proud of our boutique winery, we have a 16 acre vineyard and create estate wines; that means wine from grapes that we grow. All of these wines have earned prestigious wine awards and are recognized by wine judges as Kansas wines made with Kansas grapes. Keep the farm in farm winery and respect the grape growers and winemakers who work hard to create a quality value added product. Please oppose SB379.

Michelle Meyer

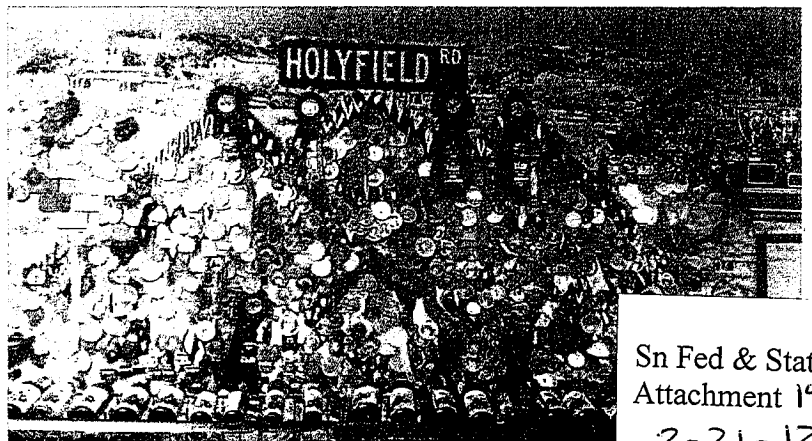
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Attachment 14

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