



Trey Cocking, Atchison City Manager
trey@cityofatchison.com
(913) 367-5506

To: House Federal and State Affairs Committee
From: Trey Cocking, City Manager
Date: February 14, 2017
Re: Support of House Bill 2141

Mr. Chairman,

Good morning, I come before you this morning in support of House Bill 2141, which would allow alcohol manufacturers to operate restaurants that serve alcohol. I am here today to discuss the economic benefit of adopting this legislation. According to the Kansas Department of Revenue's website, there are only four alcohol manufacturers in the state of Kansas and two are located in Atchison County. The locations of the other two are Johnson and Lyons counties.

Since December 2014, Atchison County has lost over 600 jobs due to lower global commodity prices and other outside factors. One of the steadying forces in our community during this time has been increased tourism and the growth of the local hospitality and restaurant industry. Atchison has become a daytrip destination for many Kansas City residents and a tourism stop for people across the United States.

Recently, MGP Ingredients, a leading U.S. alcohol manufacturer headquartered in Atchison, purchased the historic River House building located in our community on the banks of the Missouri River. MGP is seeking to convert the historic building into a destination restaurant, but due to current state law, they are unable to obtain a liquor license to operate the business.

The City of Atchison's economic development team estimates that a new destination restaurant will create between 40 and 70 jobs, including 15 to 30 full-time jobs. The restaurant has a projected direct impact on the Atchison economy of between \$1.25 and \$2.5 million. According to estimates and information provided by Michigan State University, a destination restaurant would also have an indirect impact of \$1.75 to \$4.25 million, with a total impact of \$3.0 to \$6.75 million for the City of Atchison and the State of Kansas.

Great things are happening in Atchison. In the third quarter of this year, a brand new national brand hotel and an \$11 million YMCA will open in Atchison's downtown. The Atchison community is also fortunate to have obtained the last known Lockheed Electra 10-E, the same model Atchison native Amelia Earhart disappeared in during her final world renowned flight. In the coming year, Atchison will open a first-class museum featuring the unique plane. Atchison is poised to grow, but we need the Legislature's help in adopting HB 2141 to eliminate an archaic law that inhibits the growth of the tourism industry in Atchison and the entire state of Kansas.