

LEISZLER OIL COMPANY, INC

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CONVENIENCE STORES

MEMO TO: House Taxation Committee
FROM: Alison Leiszler Bridges, Executive Vice President of Leiszler Oil Company, Inc.
DATE: March 12, 2019
RE: HB2381/HB2370

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Taxation Committee, my name is Alison Leiszler Bridges and I am the Executive Vice Present of Leiszler Oil Company. At Leiszler Oil we operate 17 Short Stop Convenience stores, 5 quick serve restaurants, 5 Rapid Wash car washes, Leiszler Transport Service, and wholesale fuel throughout Kansas.

Thank you for allowing me to offer testimony in opposition to HB2381/HB2370.

Motor fuel taxes affect our everyday at Short Stop and Leiszler Oil and we cannot support the fuel tax increases in these bills. For years KDOT has been used to fund the rest of the government instead of the taxes being used for what they were intended for.

Our convenience stores offer small communities the essentials that they need. We accept SNAP payments, offer fuel 24 hours, and offer bread, milk and hot food at reasonable prices. Our customers are very sensitive to fuel prices. By increasing motor fuel taxes you would immediately give our competitors in neighboring states a competitive advantage. Our convenience stores in Washington and Concordia are particularly sensitive to this as they rely on diesel volume. We often say that our Washington store sells diesel, chicken and beer. If you go to any large truck stop's website to check their fuel prices it will have an option to export to excel. This tells me that people are using these prices to make route decisions every day. They are deciding whether to have their truckers fuel in Nebraska or Kansas on their route or even whether to have them travel through Kansas. If they don't stop and fuel at our store, they don't buy our chicken, which directly affects the number of employees we have on staff and the sales tax received in that community.

An increase in motor fuel taxes also affects our credit card fees. Credit card fees are our second biggest expense line item after wages. Credit card fees are as much as 4.5 times larger than our third biggest expense of utilities. An increase of just cents has a huge impact on our bottom line.

An increase of motor fuel taxes, drives business across the border, thereby reducing local sales tax receipts and jobs on a local level. It isn't good for Short Stop or the State of Kansas.

Thank you,


Alison Leiszler Bridges