

February 18th, 2015

House Tax Committee

Kansas House of Representatives

Topeka, Kansas

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Bill Nigro; I own and operate several business concerns in the Westport area of Kansas City, Missouri. My business's include, Restaurants, Storage facilities, Bars, and Smoke shops. I also own a home in Overland Park Kansas. I used to manage a bar and restaurant next to KU medical Center until 2009.

I am here before you today to urge you to pass the tobacco and alcohol tax that Governor Brownback has suggested. It will help my business concerns to become more profitable. I have been a business owner in both states for over 30 years and have followed and participated in the legislation for both Missouri and Kansas concerning Alcohol and Tobacco. I have personally watched your actions become law and have had to adjust my businesses appropriately. When a smoking ban was instituted, my business went down, but I adjusted over time. We told you it would hurt our business and it did, but be entrepreneurs we found other ways to survive.

When Kansas passed a higher cigarette tax then Missouri we told you it would cut sales in Kansas, it did. In fact after these two occurrences we closed our Kansas side bars. On the Missouri side we can sell tobacco and alcohol for less.

Now you want to raise taxes 1.50 per pack on cigarettes, I say PLEASE DO. I will open a new shop on state line on the Missouri side and make out like a bandit. With no state tax on groceries, .17 cents per pack for cigarettes and gas .12 cheaper my business model will flourish.

So I encourage you to pass onto the citizens of Kansas this tax.

Respectfully,

Bill Nigro

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Overland Park Kansas 66221

913 226-6418

Owner:

Federal Storage

Westport Saloon

Buzzard Beach

Eat Me Gourmet

Formerly : Dark Horse Tavern, Torres Pizza, Jaywalkers, Beaumont Club