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Wednesday, March 2, 2022

House Committee on Federal & State Affairs
Kansas Capitol Building, Room 346-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Re: HB 2706 - Proponent

Representatives:

Thank you for taking the time to read my written testimony and thank you in advance for allowing me the opportunity to speak in person. My name is Robert A. Anderson, Jr. and I am the Ellis County Attorney. I am a proponent of HB 2706 (as are many of my fellow county attorneys in the area) and I ask that you vote in favor of this bill.

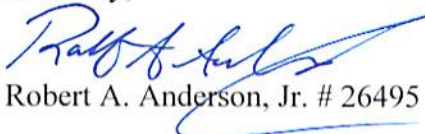
This bill addresses a very important and pressing problem all over the State. Presently, across Kansas there are certain intoxicating hemp products being possessed, distributed/sold, and consumed that are illegal under Kansas law but that are legally protected under Federal law.

It's obvious to me that the Kansas Legislature never intended to permit intoxicating hemp products. However, the reality of our situation is that intoxicating hemp products are now **everywhere** in Kansas. In Ellis County, the 21st largest county by population with a total population of roughly 28,500 people, we have/had at least 16 legitimate businesses possessing and/or distributing unlawful intoxicating hemp products. I can only imagine how many businesses across the state there might be (approximately 1,600 if Ellis Counties numbers can be accurately extrapolated throughout the state based upon population).

So, we are faced with this problem, and we need a solution. HB 2706 is the solution under the circumstances we find ourselves in. HB 2706 will more closely align Kansas law with Federal law and will address this problem without financially devastating the hemp industry (including many small businesses) and without the need for criminal prosecution of ordinary citizens who believe they are purchasing and consuming lawful products from otherwise legitimate stores.

Thank you for taking the time to read my written testimony. I ask that you vote in favor of HB 2706.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Anderson, Jr. # 26495