



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2438</b>		DATE: <b>3/27/2024</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Economic Development</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>AMELIA FREEBERG</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>913-713-9264</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>CULTIVATE KANSAS CITY</b>		TITLE: <b>ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY AND PARTNERSHIPS</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>300 EAST 39TH STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>KANSAS CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64111</b>
EMAIL: <b>ami@cultivatekc.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/27/2024 10:24 AM</b>	

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

March 27, 2024 Dear Chair Hudson and Members of the Committee on Economic Development, On behalf of the Cultivate KC, I am writing this letter in support of HB 2438 (Weber) and HB 2730 (Diehl), which would increase food access throughout the state by establishing a tax credit for full-service grocery stores and small-scale specialty crop farms located in food deserts. Food deserts affect urban and rural communities. Food deserts are low-income communities with low-access to grocery retail, and they are found in every corner of the state, in both urban and rural areas. As the grocery industry continues to consolidate, consumers are left with fewer and fewer options and communities face an even greater burden accessing food for their families. Grocery retail boosts local economies. Incentivizing full-service grocery stores in low-income, low-access communities will improve food access and support local economies. To be eligible for the tax credit, a grocery store must operate for 10 consecutive years, which will result in stable jobs and investment in the local economy. Local farmers feed their communities. In 2023, the legislature passed a bill which established a tax credit for urban farms, which we see as an important investment in our local food system. HB 2438 and HB 2730 expand this opportunity to allow the expenses of starting or improving a small-scale specialty crop farm located in rural food deserts to be eligible for the tax credit too. Providing a tax credit for small-scale specialty crop farms growing fruits and vegetables in low-access, low-income areas will increase access to fresh, local food to those who need it most in both urban and rural communities. Cultivate Kansas City asks for your support of these bills, however, we have one concern about the added language of restricting urban farms to five acres or less. This size limit was not part of the original bill and there are some urban farms in Kansas City that exceed five acres that should be eligible for this opportunity. We know that a few of KC's longest standing and most productive urban farms exceed five acres, and otherwise qualify and would benefit from this tax credit. We ask you to remove the acreage restriction or change it to match the language used to define small-scale specialty crop farms. Cultivate Kansas City is a nonprofit working to grow food, farms, and community in support of an equitable, sustainable and healthy local food system for all. Our work supports both urban farmers and food access programs like Double Up Food Bucks and the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program to help make healthy, local produce more affordable for low-income families. Thank you for your consideration, Ami Freeberg Assistant Director of Strategy and Partnerships Cultivate Kansas City



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>CHRISTINE WOODY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-503-7277</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>EMPOWER MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>POLICY MANAGER</b>
ADDRESS:		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b> ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL: <b>christine@empowermissouri.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/24/2024 7:23 PM</b>

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To: Representative Brad Hudson, Chairman & Committee Members House Economic Development Committee From: Christine Woody Food Security Policy Organizer Empower Missouri Re: Our support for HB 2438 and HB 2730

Founded in 1901, Empower Missouri advocates for the well-being of Missourians through civic leadership, education, and research. As part of our work, we organize a statewide coalition called the Food Security Coalition. This coalition is made up of individuals and organizations who are working to ensure every Missourian has access to healthy and nutritious food and that Missouri has a strong safety net for those who need it. As you may know, 12% of Missourians struggle with food insecurity. One problem that exacerbates is the existence of over 100 food deserts across the state, affecting every region from St. Louis to Kansas to rural communities in every corner of the state. Food deserts are particularly frequent all along our southern state border. When Missouri families live in a food desert, they often struggle with access to healthy, nutritious foods, including fruits, vegetables, and lean protein. Families often end up eating more processed foods that can be purchased at gas stations or convenience stores such as Family Dollar. This type of diet can lead to serious medical conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Therefore, providing incentives for increasing access to fresh nutritious food for folks who live in a food desert will not only reduce hunger across the state, but will reduce state-funded medical costs as well. Missouri already offers a wide variety of tax credits to businesses, including the Business Facility Headquarters Tax Credit, the Enhanced Enterprise Zone, the Wine & Grape Tax Credit, the Rebuilding Communities program, and the Quality Jobs Programs. Our legislature has consistently found that tax credits are a useful incentive to businesses across the state, creating jobs, attracting new residents, and building long-term tax revenue for the state. We believe that HB 2438 is a quality candidate to join these other tax credit programs to produce all of these same benefits for the state while also decreasing food insecurity and improving health outcomes for low-income families. We respectfully ask this committee to vote "Do Pass" on HB 2438 and HB 2730.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CLARISSE TEEPE-FRYREAR</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>twothewoods@hotmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/25/2024 1:08 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Please support HB 2348, HB 2589, HB 2730 to give Missourians access to local food, access to fresh foods and incentives for local farms and producers.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>DAVID OVERFELT</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-230-6006</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI GROCERS ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>618 E CAPITOL</b>		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL: <b>dsoverfelt@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/26/2024 2:48 PM</b>
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**The Missouri Grocers Association support tax credits that improve the access to food.**



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<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>EMMA SHANKLAND</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-377-8957</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>KC HEALTHY KIDS &amp; THE GREATER KC FOOD POLICY COALITION</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR, GREATER KC FOOD POLICY COALITION</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>650 MINNESOTA AVE</b>			
CITY: <b>KANSAS CITY</b>		STATE: <b>KS</b>	ZIP: <b>66101</b>
EMAIL: <b>eshankland@kchealthykids.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/26/2024 7:58 PM</b>	

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Dear Chair Hudson and Members of the Committee on Economic Development, On behalf of the Greater KC Food Policy Coalition, I am writing this letter in support of HB 2438 (Weber) and HB 2730 (Diehl), which would increase food access throughout the state by establishing a tax credit for full-service grocery stores and small-scale specialty crop farms located in food deserts. Food deserts affect urban and rural communities. Food deserts are low-income communities with low-access to grocery retail. Low-income, low-access communities are found in every corner of the state, in both urban and rural areas. In 2023, roughly one out of every 10 Missouri counties had one or fewer retail grocery outlets and three counties had no grocery stores. As the grocery industry continues to consolidate, consumers are left with fewer and fewer options. Dollar Tree and Family Dollar recently announced that they are closing hundreds of stores this year. In many low-income, low-access communities, dollar stores are the only grocery retail. When these stores close, communities face an even greater burden accessing food for their families. Grocery retail boosts local economies. Incentivizing full-service grocery stores in low-income, low-access communities will improve food access and support local economies. To be eligible for the tax credit, a grocery store must operate for 10 consecutive years, which will result in stable jobs and investment in the local economy. In Kansas, locally-owned grocery stores created 17 jobs and contributed \$644,000 to the local economy. Local farmers feed their communities. Fruits, tree nuts, and vegetables are considered specialty crops. In 2023, the legislature passed a bill which established a tax credit for small-scale farms. HB 2438 and HB 2730 allow the expenses of starting or improving a small-scale specialty crop farm located in a food desert to be eligible for the tax credit. Providing a tax credit for small-scale specialty crop farms in low-access, low-income areas will increase access to fresh, local food. The Greater KC Food Policy Coalition, a program of KC Healthy Kids, convenes diverse stakeholders to advocate for an equitable, sustainable, and resilient food system in greater Kansas City and promote policies for the nutritional, economic, social, and environmental health of the community. Sincerely, Emma Shankland Director of Food Policy, KC Healthy Kids Director, Greater KC Food Policy Coalition



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<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MELISSA VATTEROTT</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-727-0600</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI COALITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT</b>		TITLE: <b>POLICY DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>725 KINGSLAND AVENUE, SUITE 100</b>			
CITY: <b>ST LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63130</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/27/2024 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SHANNON COOPER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>660-890-1432</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI CATTLEMEN's ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE: <b>LOBBYIST</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>208 MADISON STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/27/2024 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>arniedienoff@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/27/2024 11:26 PM</b>
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**I am Opposed to this Bill. I am Opposed to Free Giveaways and Tax-Credits. I believe in a fair and open Market and not the use of incentives by authorizing additional Food Tax Credits.**





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DON BICKHAUS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>doniibecky@yahoo.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/22/2024 10:30 AM</b>
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**NO support here...there is no reason we need government to get involved in the private process of a hobby farm.**