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DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

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Bill No. 165 – *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)*

Mr. Forbes: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Appreciate the opportunity to rise again and enter into the debate on Bill No. 165, *An Act to amend The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 1997*.

And it's a shorter Act. It's one that really just deals with the one issue that the Premier had raised about making agreements with other provinces in terms of the sale of liquor, of alcohol. And so this is an interesting piece because we know that when we have tried to raise the issue about buy local, we've been shut down from the other side, saying every day is buy local. But here's a bill that really . . . And we understand and especially when it comes to specialty products or wine or different types of alcohol, people's tastes really call out for wines and different spirits from across the country, across the world. But I understand what's going on here.

But it would be interesting to know what kind of consultation went on with the local distilleries. Somebody talked about the one in Lumsden with the pickle juice, was it . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Pickle vodka. And how is pickle vodka ever going to make a comeback when it's having to compete, having to compete with other products across Canada?. How on earth will pickle vodka ever have a chance to make it on the provincial scene when it's up against some mighty giants from other provinces?

So we understand this, but this would've been a great opportunity really to instead really promote buy local. In fact here's an opportunity where they could've coupled this together. A nice wine pairing in fact — buy local, buy Canada. What an opportunity. What a marketing thing. But here really they're going out for buy Canada, buy British Columbia.

And we really wonder about this. How have they really thought this all the way through? We'll have lots of questions in committee in terms of what is the impact on the local market when we see that there's so many, so many producers who are really trying to

make it in a significant niche.

You know, one of my favourites is the Cypress Hills wines and they do some really nice stuff. And if you've had an opportunity . . . I don't know how many people have been down to Cypress Hills Winery. It's a beautiful little place down by the park and really well worth the trip and just really nice how they've taken different plants and made them, whether it's rhubarb wine or different types of products. It's just great. But I really want to give them a shout-out because they're great.

And I know west of Saskatoon, Perdue is another great winery there and there's people working really hard to make it in Saskatchewan and using the farmers' markets, using whatever they can to make it in Saskatchewan because if you make it here then you can make it throughout.

And then of course we've talked about the craft breweries. We can go on and on about that and how they would like to have some changes to regulations so they can make it, and their own special unique challenges that they have.

But we see before us this bill so that we can make it easier to purchase alcohol from another province and bring it here into Saskatchewan. Not necessarily a bad idea but is it the one that should be the priority for this government? I'm not sure. I think buy local takes a priority. I think buy local is a great idea and should be a priority for this government, and not necessarily shopping around.

But with that, I know that there'll be lots of questions for this in committee and there'll be lots of my colleagues who will want to speak to this as well. So I would like to move Bill No. 165, *An Act to amend The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 1997* be adjourned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.