

# CONNECTICUT PACKAGE STORES ASSOCIATION



700 PLAZA MIDDLESEX  
MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457  
PHONE - 860. 346. 7978  
FAX - 860. 343. 0014

*Executive Director*  
Carroll J. Hughes  
*Assistant Executive Director*  
Josh D. Hughes Esq.

Senator Colapietro, Representative Shapiro and members of the General Law Committee:

The Connecticut Package Stores Association (CPSA) represents 1,100 off-premise package store retailers in the state of Connecticut, working to promote and protect their integral role as one of the three tiers of the alcohol beverage industry in CT.

We want to make suggestions concerning H.B. No. 5139 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE OF WINE WITH GIFT BASKETS. We support the entrepreneurial spirit and innovation that would bring additional businesses and jobs to our state, and we have, in the past, supported the increased sales opportunities of the state's brewpub and farm winery industries. In this ever-increasingly difficult time in the sale of beverage alcohol, we offer cautious support to this new alcohol permit. We would offer the following topics that could cause concern amongst the tiers of the existing industry and variances in the existing laws and regulations:

- No business entity may hold more than one class of permit. For example, the holder of a package store permit may not also hold a grocery beer permit or vice versa. Therefore, it would seem that an entity that holds a grocery beer permit should be prohibited from obtaining one of these permits for their floral department even if they were to establish their own corporate entity to do so.
- We would suggest some limit on the volume of purchasing such that an entity operating under this permit would not develop into a package store.
- We continue to be concerned, as a result of the recent Supreme Court decision *Granholtz*, in expanding the number of ways that alcohol is delivered to the consumer. The Court decision stipulates that an out-of-state entity may not be treated differently than one that is in-state. This could enable out-of-state florists to deliver alcohol products directly to the consumer with no capacity of our state agencies to enforce our laws and penalties on those businesses.

We would be happy to make ourselves available to further discuss this issue.