

**DAVIS IGA, INC.
P.O. BOX 251
27 KENT GREEN
KENT, CT 06757
(860) 927-4093**

In support of SB204: An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Program Review and Investigations Committee Concerning the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages on Sunday

My name is Gary Davis and I am in support of Senate Bill 204 to end the state's blue law ban on the Sunday sale of alcoholic beverages in grocery and package stores.

I am President of DAVIS IGA, Inc. in Kent, CT. We are a small, home town, family owned grocery business in the state of Connecticut founded by my parents in 1974.

This issue is of great importance to me as Kent borders the state of New York. I feel since our store is open seven days a week, we should be able to sell beer seven days a week. Numerous times throughout the years I have had to explain to an out of state customer on a Sunday why they cannot purchase beer in our store that day. The reaction is often one of shock; they cannot believe how outdated this law is.

With the state of Connecticut in such dire financial straits, I would think this issue would not be so contentious. According to the legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee report issued in December 2009, the state could see an increase of up to \$8 million in new tax revenue if the Sunday alcohol sales prohibition was reopened. That number appears low as it doesn't consider any additional purchases made in a trip across the border to buy alcohol. It is naïve to think alcohol is the only commodity purchased by a Connecticut resident on a Sunday trip out of state for these purchases.

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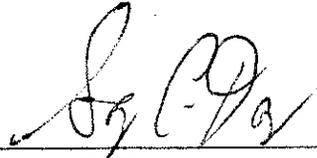
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With the economy in the tough shape that it is now, along with the state of Connecticut's dire need of revenue, it makes no sense to drive away business. Connecticut needs to keep our business in the state, not send our customers to a bordering state to spend any amount of money.

The liquor store owners have had a lobby that has protected their Sunday day off for years. No other retail industry in Connecticut has had that luxury. If the ban on Sunday sales is lifted, there is nothing in the legislation that says they will have to open.

As a small town, family owned supermarket, striving to keep our business in Connecticut a viable one, it sure would be nice to keep the sale of alcohol on Sunday in Kent, Connecticut and not send our customers to Dover Plains or Amenia, New York, our nearby neighbors to the west.

I strongly urge you to support Senate Bill 204 and lift this outdated blue law on the Sunday sale of alcoholic beverages.



Gary C. Davis
President, DAVIS IGA, Inc.

3/4/10

Date