



Waverly Markets, LLC
Richard Z. Cohen
President

February 7, 2010

SUPPORT for raised House bill 6264, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE SALE OR DISPENSING OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR ON SUNDAY.

To: The Hon. Paul R. Doyle, Co-Chairman, The Hon. Joseph J. Taborsak, Co-Chairman, The Hon. David A. Baram, Vice-Chairman, The Hon. Kevin D. Witkos, Ranking Member, The Hon. Rosa C. Rebinbas, Ranking Member and the members of the General Law Committee

Good afternoon Chairman Doyle, Chairman Taborsak and members of the General Law Committee. My name is Richard Cohen and I am the owner/operator of the ShopRite of Manchester and the ShopRite of East Hartford. I would like to thank you for taking the time to discuss this very important issue.

I am pleased to support raised House bill 6264, allowing Sunday sales of alcohol in my supermarkets.

Sunday has become the busiest shopping day for my stores and eliminating the blue law that prohibits the sale of alcohol on Sunday would benefit ShopRite, my customers and the state of Connecticut.

Connecticut is one of only of three states in the nation that still prohibits the Sunday sale of alcoholic beverages at neighborhood grocery and package stores. This prohibition has been in place since 1933. While it may have made sense in the 1930s, 2011 is a different time. In today's busy world, it is imperative for my family and I to provide our customers with the convenience of a one stop shopping experience. Being able to purchase all components of their meal in one shopping trip, every day of the week, provides that convenience.

Additionally, ending the prohibition on Sunday sales is important because it will help ShopRite remain competitive with stores in neighboring states that do sell alcohol on Sunday. Connecticut customers are crossing state lines to do their shopping on Sundays, resulting in revenue losses for retailers and the State.

We need to keep these customers shopping in their own neighborhoods. Lifting the ban and allowing the sale of alcohol on Sunday would help do that and not only result in increased sales in these stores, but in increased revenues for Connecticut.

In fact, the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee estimated in a 2009 report that the state could see an increase of up to \$8 million in new tax revenue if the Sunday alcohol sales prohibition were repealed. With a projected \$3.5 billion budget deficit for FY 2012, these are revenue figures that cannot be ignored.

Please support raised House bill 6264 and allow Sunday sales of alcoholic beverages. Generating new revenue for the state, while increasing retail sales and customer convenience, is a win-win situation for everyone.

Thank you.

Richard Z. Cohen
President

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