

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

In support of Bill #6264: An Act Authorizing the Sale or Dispensing of Alcoholic Liquor on Sunday.

My name is Gary Davis and I am in support of Bill #6264 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, family owned independent supermarket founded by my parents in 1974.

Since Kent is on the border with the state of New York, this issue is of great importance to our business. 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. Just this past summer, July 4th fell on a Sunday. I happened to be in the aisle with the covered beer cooler and was asked how to get to the nearest store in New York state to purchase beer. As I grudgingly gave directions, I informed the customer that since the Federal holiday fell on a Sunday, we couldn't sell beer on Monday either, which was the observed holiday. Therefore, on a three day holiday weekend in the peak of summer, we were only allowed to sell beer on one day.

Our business is open seven days a week. That July 4th weekend could have been great for beer sales had we at least been allowed to sell on Sunday. Instead, we have a law that seems to me to be archaic at this point in time. According to the legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee report issued in December 2009, the State of Connecticut could see an increase of up to \$8 million in new tax revenue if the Sunday alcohol sales prohibition was lifted. Can the State of Connecticut really afford to turn that tax revenue down? With the state in dire need of revenue, it makes sense to keep as much business in the state as we can.

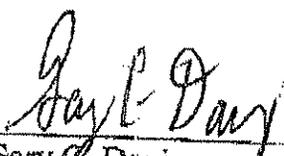
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Connecticut is bordered by three states that allow Sunday alcohol sales. It is naïve to think alcohol is the only commodity purchased by a Connecticut resident on a Sunday trip across the border for these purchases.

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 liquor stores will have to be open.

I strongly urge you to support Bill #6264 and lift this outdated blue law on the Sunday sale of alcoholic beverages.



Gary C. Davis
President, DAVIS IGA, Inc.

2/7/11

Date