



CONNECTICUT BOWLING PROPRIETORS

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Committee on General Law 2/8/2011

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to speak in regard to raised bill #81. My name is Bill DeDominicis. I own a bowling center and I am here on behalf of the Connecticut Bowling Proprietors Association.

I would like to take this opportunity to provide some background on the liquor permit fee of \$2,250 for bowling centers.

Thirty-six of the forty-three bowling centers in the state have full liquor licenses. All thirty-one of the Ten Pin Centers as well as five of the Duckpin centers have licenses. The others do not qualify due to the size requirement.

In 1973, when the bowling center permit was created, for some reason the fee was set the same as coliseums, which was the most expensive license available. The two remained the most expensive permits until the casino permit was created. If a bowling center had the audience a coliseum has for just one week there would not be a need for this bill and I would be too embarrassed to be here.

This bill, if enacted, will put bowling centers in line with golf courses, which it should be. Their operations mirror each other. Both are seasonal and in most cases have a limited audience, their members.

There isn't any logic to the structure of the permit fees. A brewpub permit is \$300, a café is \$2,000 a restaurant is \$1,450, a golf course is \$1,000 and then a bowling center permit comes in at \$2,250.

If this bill passes, the state's revenues will be reduced by \$45,000 but this is not a case about money it is about a select group being treated unfairly for years.

I have spoken with the prior administration of the liquor control commission and they agreed this should have never happened and it should be corrected however it has to be done through the legislative process and not their commission.

I am sure I can't tell you anything new about the economy but I can tell you that the bowling industry has not been immune to it. The combination of the affects of the smoking ban, the overall decrease in alcohol sales along with the downturn of the economy has taken a heavy toll on the bowling industry.

I thank you for your time and I assure you the bowling industry will greatly appreciate your help in this matter.

I will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

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