



# Standard Oil

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February 8, 2011

Co-Chair Paul R. Doyle  
Co-Chair Joseph J. Taborsak  
Senator Kevin D. Witkos  
Representative Rosa C. Rebimbas

Members of the General Law Committee:

My name is Abner Burgos Rodriguez and I am here today to testify in support of S.B. 864, An Act Concerning Grocery Store Beer Permits.

I work for a Connecticut based gasoline distributor by the name of Standard Oil, located in Bridgeport. We own gasoline stations that have c-stores and sell gasoline to independently owned c-store throughout the state.

I am here to provide witness to the damaging effects that the current law has on small mom and pop c-stores along our states boarders. I live in Danbury and I frequently visit these small c-stores who are unable, under the current law, to obtain a beer permit. This restriction often results in lost earnings.

Potential customers who work in New York, but live in western Connecticut, will stop in New York for the convenience of purchasing beer. When they stop, more times than not, they will buy other products like milk, cigarettes, and gasoline just to name a few. These lost sales mean a smaller income for Connecticut business owners.

C-store owner's work hard every day to earn customers, but unfortunately Connecticut has a law that undercuts their efforts. S.B. 864 fixes that, and rewards family owned businesses for their commitment to providing jobs and competitive gasoline prices.

We are all aware of the deficit that you are dealing with. S.B. 864 brings consumer back to Connecticut to buy our gasoline, beer, newspapers, lottery tickets and other products offered at c-stores. Along with those purchases comes much needed tax revenue for the state and job security for the thousands of people who work in c-stores.

I ask that the General Law Committee to support S.B. 864, An Act Concerning Grocery Store Beer Permits, and allow c-stores to profit, the state to grow revenue without raising taxes, and job security for many.

If you have any questions I would be happy to answer them at this time.

Sincerely,

Abner Burgos Rodriguez  
Standard Oil