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Statement of The Stop & Shop Supermarket Company

In support of SB084: An Act Concerning the Retail Sale of Alcoholic Beverages on Sunday

Before the General Law Committee

February 8, 2011

Good morning Chairman Taborsak, Chairman Doyle, and members of the General Law Committee. My name is Paul Jahnige and I'm the District Director for the Stop & Shop stores in Fairfield County and I'm a resident of Gilford Connecticut.

The Stop & Shop Supermarket Company is one of the largest employers in the state of Connecticut with more than 12,900 full and part-time union associates. We operate 92 stores in Connecticut.

On behalf of The Stop & Shop Supermarket Company, I am here today to ask for your support for Senate Bill 084 "An Act Concerning the Retail Sale of Alcohol Beverages on Sunday". It is time to end the state's antiquated blue law ban on the Sunday sale of alcoholic beverages at our grocery stores.

Consumers

Connecticut is the only state in the Northeast that still prohibits the Sunday sale of alcoholic beverages at retail establishments. Sunday is one of our busiest shopping days, because it affords families the time and the opportunity to prepare for their busy upcoming week. Our customers are time starved and are looking for everyday convenience. We strive to ensure that we offer customers a true convenient, one-stop shopping experience. Changing this law will enable our customers to complete their Sunday shopping trip – ensuring they can purchase all food, beverages, health and beauty care needs and other household necessities in a single shopping trip. Connecticut consumers will benefit greatly from the repeal of this blue law.

Training

We have been selling beer to our customers in Connecticut six days a week for many years now. We take our responsibility concerning the sale of beer very seriously. We train our associates in handling the transaction of alcohol sales and safeguards are in place to prompt our cashiers to request identification in connection with alcohol sales.

Economics

We are open seven days a week, yet we are not allowed to sell alcohol on Sundays. This means loss of retail sales and revenue for the state. We have Connecticut store locations that border New York and Massachusetts, states that allow the sale of alcohol on Sundays.

Repeal of this law will allow our Stop & Shop stores located near the borders to compete on an even playing field for sales seven days a week. By eliminating the ban it will mean increased sales, create new sales tax revenue, new excise tax revenue, and additional unclaimed deposit escheat revenue for the state.

As we all know, we need revenue to help close our state's budget deficit this year and in future years and to spare important social programs from deep budget cuts.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we strongly urge the committee to support SB084 to repeal the antiquated Sunday Blue law ban on the Sunday sale of alcoholic beverages.

Repealing this ban will provide conveniences to consumers, increasing retail sales, help improve Connecticut's economy and raise additional state revenue.

Thank you.