

Re: Bill 5021-Competitive Alcoholic Liquor Pricing and Hours of Operation for Permittees.

I am wondering how any of our Senators could even consider supporting a bill that is so destructive on so many levels. Have you taken time to drive around this state and see how many small businesses have disappeared? It is absolutely frightening.... And now you to want lose 1200 more businesses. .

We, in the liquor industry, have already survived the July 1st tax increase, which was costly and very time consuming. People have adjusted by buying less expensive brands. I don't know how that helped any of us. Now you would like to put us out of business by giving carte blanche to "big box stores". Let's be honest, longer hours and Sunday sales would be a burden to all of us but most of us could survive and be less profitable, but putting licenses in the hands of so many would take away our ability to function. We train our staff, send them to wine school, and send them to police training courses so that we sell responsibly. That is not the case in all supermarkets. There are also safety issues to keep in mind when extending liquor store hours and bar hours.

I am also wondering where you are getting all these ridiculous increase in tax numbers. Just because we are open longer does not equal people will drink more. Did you all start eating more when the supermarkets began to stay open longer?

Please also take into consideration all that small business gives back to their communities. We all live and work in the state and employ local residents. Naturally, we all shop in our local stores and the money stays in Connecticut. That is more than I can say for the "big box stores". We contribute to the non-profit organizations that seek our help and support fundraising for our churches, schools, veterans and community services. This year alone we raised \$3500.00 for our local food pantry. We are all there for each other which make our communities stronger.

I just heard a story on tonight's news, where the Governor has pledged two million dollars of taxpayer's money to help a manufacturing company that will employ one hundred people. Why then are you interested in destroying an industry that employs seven thousand people. It is our hope that you start operating like a real business and stop spending like we have all had to do to survive. That is the only way we can all benefit and stay in the State of Connecticut.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dee Mulqueen
Hammonasset Package Store
Madison, Ct