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My name is Gary Davis. I am the President of Davis IGA, Inc. in Kent, CT, a company founded by my parents in 1974.

My business is a small, family owned, independent supermarket located in the northwest corner of the state.

I am here today in support of HB#5021. The issue of Sunday beer sales is of great importance to our business as the town of Kent is located approximately 5 minutes from the New York state border.

New York has allowed retail Sunday sales of beer for years; Connecticut has not. There have been many occasions over our 38 years in business where I have had to explain to a customer, on a Sunday, directions to New York State, to find the nearest store that sells beer. It would be naive for me to think when I send these customers out of my store to purchase beer in our bordering state, that beer is the only item they are purchasing. Can anyone afford a lost sale of any kind in this economy? Can the state of Connecticut afford the lost tax revenue? I think all business owners and state legislators can answer "no" to that question.

Connecticut is one of two states in the country that does not allow retail alcohol sales on Sunday. The end to Connecticut Blue Laws is long overdue. Customers want the convenience to purchase all of the products we sell seven days a week, not six. We in the grocery industry choose to be open seven days a week. Liquor store owners would have the same choice.