



Testimony Submitted By:
Kevin Pimental
Xtramart Convenience Stores

To: Committee on General Law
Relative to Governor's Bill SB 5021
February, 27th, 2012

Good afternoon Senator Doyle, Representative Taborsak, and members of the General Law Committee. My name is Kevin Pimental, Retail Automation Manager for XtraMart Convenience Stores, member of the Connecticut Chapter of the New England Convenience Store Association and member of the Independent Connecticut Petroleum Association. I represent XtraMart, we own and operate convenience stores in Connecticut and are here to support S.B. 5021 which seeks to put an end to the state's antiquated alcohol blue laws. Our stores are located in neighborhoods throughout the state and serve the local community.

Although we are in support of the bill in its entirety, of specific concern to us and the industry is the section of the bill that would allow beer to be sold at qualifying convenience stores. We are constantly asked by our customers why we do not have beer available for them and conversely, why they can't just buy their snacks when they are picking up beer at a liquor store (like almost every other state in the country). In addition to our stores losing sales, the State of Connecticut is losing tax revenue to its border states that do allow the sale of beer in c-stores. Furthermore, acceptance of this bill would allow the State and its Connecticut retailers to remain more competitive and offer an added convenience to its consumers.

We support the change in the law because it will further enhance the convenience to our Connecticut consumers while at the same time increase tax revenue, sales revenue, and potentially add drastically needed jobs to the community.

In harmony with the 'End Connecticut's Blue Laws Coalition', "Connecticut consumers deserve more convenience, more choice, and lower prices when shopping for beer, wine, and spirits. And our neighborhood convenience, grocery and package stores deserve the right to compete on an even playing field with stores in neighboring states that have already repealed their outdated blue laws."

Please join us in support of S.B. 5021. It represents a change that benefits the State of Connecticut, its retailers, and consumers alike. Thank you for your consideration.

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