

February 28, 2012

Dear General Assembly,

My name is Larry Cass and I own GlenRo Spirit Shoppe in Monroe CT. With a three minute time limit I will be brief, please do not take it as disrespectful. Proposed Bill 5021 contains provisions that would micro economically impact CT and macro economically affect the northeast. Plain and simple.

Last year, I was sitting ten rows back and I listened to the general law committee attempt to pass a Sunday liquor sales bill to no avail. What struck me during that process was the concept of selling potato chips. Yes, potato chips. The General law committee stopped the hearing to check the liquor law statutes with the conclusion that liquor stores do not sell potato chips.

With all due respect committee members, how do you know the ramifications of abolishing min bottle? How about the favoritism to the large box stores in quantity discounting? The creation of a medallion system is intriguing, but what are the long term probabilities for the small Mom & Pop stores? The 2,500 person per store law has existed for decades, yet somehow abolishing that would achieve more tax revenue in what way?

You folks are looking for more tax money, yet Bill 5021 looks to destroy small business jobs, lower prices for the consumer (Albeit a great idea, but if prices decrease so does CT tax revenue) and destroy competition with these mega-stores. How can we compete as Governor Malloy eloquently showed us on TV with CT consumers shopping in Massachusetts? Well, they have NO liquor tax. It's like comparing outlet shopping in Clinton with Fifth ave NYC shopping. We are not on an even playing field.

Finally, Please do not vote for this bill if you believe in your heart that there is reasonable doubt the net outcome will not be positive for tax revenue. Also, please consider not supporting this bill if your mind tells you we will not loose the projected 7,000 jobs with Bill 5021. Any doubt on any portion of this bill or any combination of these bill proponents should lead you to a NO VOTE on Bill 5021.

Why not try opening 10 Sundays a year first, before completely re-writing history here in CT.

Remember our ancestors thought prohibition was a good idea.
Thank you in advance for your time,

Larry Cass
GlenRo Spirit Shoppe