



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE LINDA A. ORANGE
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MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

February 28, 2012
Testimony re: House Bill 5021

To The Co-Chairs and Members of the General Law Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding the governor's bill, *AAC Competitive Alcoholic Liquor Pricing and Hours of Operation for Permittees*.

The policy changes articulated in this bill will endanger my local, independently owned wine and spirits shops. Rather than protecting small businesses and their employees, this is a nod to out-of-state big-box stores such as Wal-Mart, Target, Costco, and major supermarket chains. Every policy change creates winners and losers, and this change would clearly advantage the larger corporate retailers over our local merchants.

Under this proposed legislation, supermarkets, big-box stores and even gas stations could go into the package store business. Portions of the bill would allow box stores and food stores to own many more alcohol permits, thus reducing the value of each owner's medallion. This would cost up to as many as 7,000 jobs and add hundreds of new alcohol permits to the state. Seven *thousand* Connecticut residents would face unemployment, and hundreds of small, family-owned package stores would be run out of business. These concerns were relayed to me by many local owners in my district, and I am very concerned for the well-being of these establishments as a result.

Please take these thoughts into consideration as you deliberate this proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Linda Orange".

Rep. Linda Orange
Deputy Speaker of the House