

**Palmer, Steve**

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**From:** terieve@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 1:30 PM  
**To:** generallawmail  
**Cc:** eileen.daily@senatedems.ct.gov; Rep. Miller, Philip; Sen. Daily, Eileen  
**Subject:** Bill #5021 Liquor Sales

Dear Sir,

My husband and I own 2 small, and I mean small liquor stores. They are approx. 1000 sq and 1900 sq feet establishments. Like most of the stores owned in the state, we are locally owned and operate on a shoestring budget. We do not have the capability to palletize nor store products the way this bill would suggest. As it is, we have to buy some product and store it for 90 days, but pay for it 30 days, now does that seem fair? No matter, the stores on the border towns will not benefit by this new legislation as most are in the same situation that we are. The issue of opening on Sundays will not generate more income as it will still be less expensive for the consumer to drive across the border into Mass. and make their purchases just like they do Monday through Saturday. Also, they just might purchase their gas in Mass. too, as it less expensive than it is in Connecticut. I personally have a friend who lives in Rocky Hill and drives to Mass. to purchase her wine. She says " it is less expensive, including the gas, than it is here in CT"

Allowing the "big box" stores to own and operate full liquor stores, is just another "nail in the coffin" of the small independent liquor store owner. We have had our stores 11 and 10 years respectfully. To allow me to purchase and own seven (7) more, how in the world can a "mom and pop" organization do that. I ask you, please tell me. I foresee what happened to the small local pharmacies, and one of my stores is located in the building that used to be our town pharmacy. Small liquor stores like us will just disappear and the employees, I have 4 full time and 1 part time employee will file for unemployment. Also, allowing the "Big Box" stores, whose corporate offices are located outside of CT, to go directly to the source for their products and not the distributors we must use now, will add even more people to the unemployment line. Adding food product to the small liquor store will not generate more income, we barely have enough room now to display and stock the products we carry. I doubt most stores would jump at the chance to sell gum, chips, pretzels....seriously?

Allowing us to be open til 10pm, hmmm does anyone remember the horrific murder of a package store owner that sparked the outrage and had the store hours cut to 8pm? Oh yes, and we are allowed to be open until 9pm now. I do that now with only one of my stores, we might sell \$100 during that time during the summer only. I do not have the other store open til 9pm as my husband was accosted by a drunken man wanting more beer. Of course, if we had been open, the man could have easily done more damage to my husband or the store in his outrage. Why does anyone need to buy beer, wine or liquor at 10pm? Oh yes, you want the grocery stores to be open and sell...I get it.

The nearest Super N Shop is 8 miles from me, in between there are 3 more liquor stores. They will all be open as no one wants to lose that precious dollar they might make. I can guarantee, someone walking into a package store at 10pm is under the

influence and looking for more and the harm that can come from denying someone who is even the least bit intoxicated will be great.

I am sure the bar industry is not too happy about this either. Let's see what generates more in sales tax revenue: Buy a six pack at the packy and go home to watch the game or go to the bar, have a few beers, wings, sliders, some shots....yeah that's a no brainer, go to the packy and get six pack the sales tax is not even .40 cents

Bottom line: this new legislation will mean the end of the "mom and pop" liquor stores, just like CVS and the other "big corporate" stores put the little pharmacy out of business. Do you remember Caldor?, Bradley's, Ames? they were family run and they all filed bankruptcy. How about Bernies, but heck who cares when you can go to Walmart and get it all and the corporate dollars leave the state, yeah that really benefits Connecticut.

How would you like to make what you make now working 7 days a week instead of 6 days. When polled our customers have repeated said they would not buy an extra bottle or six pack on a Sunday. They would put off what they buy on Saturday and get it on Sunday. How does that make sense?

As you can see, I see no benefit to the "little" guy here, only the "big box" stores, I cannot see any of this helping the stores on the border of Mass. They just might be the first to close if this passes. Is this really what you want for Connecticut? I pray you do not.

Sincerely  
Teri D Everett  
owner  
Teri's Package Store  
Higganum Wine & Spirits