

Palmer, Steve

From: Kathleen Smith [kathleen_cws@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2012 5:51 PM
To: Palmer, Steve; generallawmail; fcpackagestoregroup@yahoo.com
Subject: Opposition to House Bill #5021
To: Connecticut Law Review Council

From: Kathleen Hall Smith
65 Brooklawn Place
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Re: Opposition to House Bill #5021

Dear Sir or Madam,

As a Connecticut resident and registered voter who helped to elect Dannel Molloy in the last election, I am writing to state my opposition to the proposed House Bill #5021.

While most residents believe that this Bill is only about selling beer on Sundays, **Sunday Sales** are just the tip of the iceberg. The impact of the other facets of the Bill to small, family-owned package stores will be devastating.

The **Minimum Bottle Pricing** was instituted to even the playing field between package stores; no one shop would be able to under-cut another in pricing. By abolishing minimum pricing, larger stores will have the capital and space to buy enormous quantities of product at deep discounts. We've seen time and again how this model puts small business owners out of business (local hardware stores, coffee shops, book stores and record shops put out of business by nationwide chains). Increasing the **Number of Liquor Licenses** from two to nine exacerbates this same issue, giving big business an even bigger platform with which to sell this quantity-discounted product. Smaller stores will not be able to compete on price. The **Medallion System** will become worthless as the larger stores put the smaller stores out of business, flooding the market with devalued medallions.

Without studies that include specific data to back up the Governor's assertions of an increase of tax revenue, I am left to conclude that what Bill #5021 will really do is merely *redistribute* the current profits from family-owned businesses to large corporations. These families live in Connecticut, pay property tax in Connecticut and spend their hard-earned paychecks in Connecticut. Revenues to large corporations will end up out of state at corporate headquarters.

Please take the time to look at all of the components of Bill #5021 before hastily making a decision that will put many Connecticut small business owners' livelihoods in jeopardy.

Best regards,

Kathleen Hall Smith

2/27/2012