



STATEMENT REGARDING
House Bill 5021: AAC Competitive Alcoholic Liquor Pricing and Hours of Operation
for Permittees
General Law Committee
February 28th, 2011

The MetroHartford Alliance is the Region's economic development leader and the City's Chamber of Commerce. Our investors include businesses of all sizes, health care providers, institutions of higher education, and municipalities. All of these investors share a common interest in the full economic and employment recovery of Connecticut, in a dynamic Capital City, and in the enhanced ability for the Region to compete for jobs, capital, and talent.

We all agree that the State's top priority remains to retain jobs and to create and sustain additional employment opportunities. That priority was manifested in the October Special Session that adopted actions to foster long term economic growth and recovery.

Given that priority and the accomplishments of that Session, we have concerns about specific aspects of House Bill 5021 that go beyond Sunday sales and that threaten the ability of our some of our smaller employers to operate competitive liquor stores and to maintain positions for their workforce. The ban on quantity discounts and minimum bottle pricing and the increase in the number of licenses one can purchase are the major threats that require greater evaluation by the Committee to ensure that the proposal does not undermine the Legislature's efforts of last October to strengthen job and economic growth.

We note that the proponents of the legislation have suggested some modifications to the original draft in response to these concerns. Accordingly, we urge the Committee to take the time to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the potential impact of these aforementioned sections on the ability of small businesses to compete effectively and thereby to retain and grow their important employment base. We thank you for your consideration.