

CONNECTICUT PACKAGE STORES ASSOCIATION



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Good afternoon Senator Doyle, Representative Baram, Senator Witkos and Representative Carter and members of the General Law Committee. The Connecticut Package Stores Association (CPSA) represents Connecticut off-premise package store retailers. We work to promote and protect their integral role as one of the three tiers of the alcohol beverage industry in CT.

We oppose S.B. No. 82 (RAISED) AN ACT ALLOWING PACKAGE STORE PERMIT HOLDERS AND BACKERS TO HOLD GIFT BASKET RETAILER PERMITS.

The 2011 law allowing gift basket retailers to also sell gift alcohol products in their gift baskets provided new opportunities for gift basket retailers in CT. Currently package stores can sell gift baskets under 30-20(a) (10) with alcohol products; and those stores that chose to sell some cheese products and other items after the 2012 law change can combine those products in the gift baskets as well. However, this bill is would allow other products not authorized to be sold under the current package store permit thereby further eroding the distinction between food stores and off-premise alcohol beverage retailers. Package stores do not want to be in the food business and would even support a repeal of the 2012 law allowing for some cheese products and other food items to be sold. Allowing additional food items and other food store products to be sold in package stores within the gift baskets is a significant expansion of the permit and one we do not support.

Thank you for allowing us to submit this testimony and for considering our concerns..

Regards

Josh Hughes
Assistant Executive Director