



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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General Law Committee
Public Testimony
February 23, 2016

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF: SENATE BILL 14

Good Morning Co-Chairs Senator Leone, Representative Baram; Vice Chairs Senator Larson, Representative Kiner; Ranking Members Senator Witkos, Representative Carter; and esteemed members of the Committee.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony. I am writing in opposition to SB 14: An Act Ensuring the Regional Competiveness of Connecticut's Liquor Prices.

The provisions outlined in the Governor's proposal are detrimental to small liquor storeowners. This law changes the rules that have been in place for generations and that every small mom & pop followed when they took a chance and invested their hard earned money and hard work when they opened their businesses.

The bill gives an advantage to bigger retailers who will be able to absorb the associated costs while leaving our smaller liquor stores in a poor position. This will allow the big wholesalers, some who aren't Connecticut based to prosper while smaller liquor stores will be driven out of business and creating more job loss.

Most importantly, the people who own and operate the neighborhood stores are our neighbors, their children attend our schools, they're involved in our communities, they are our friends.

Every one of the smaller shops in our state are against these changes and there is virtually no call for it from the public at large. Connecticut established a set of rules for liquor stores a long time ago and asked the small business owners to abide by those rules. It is simply unfair to changes the rules to benefit a few.

I hope you'll side with our small business owners who have played by the states rules.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.