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**CHAUFFEURS, TEAMSTERS, WAREHOUSEMEN AND HELPERS
LOCAL UNION NO. 443 NEW HAVEN AND VICINITY, CT
AFFILIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS**



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My name is Daniel Flanagan I am the Secretary-Treasurer and Principal Officer of Teamsters Local 443 in New Haven, CT. I stand before you today to speak in opposition of Governors Bill No. 14 regarding the Regional Competitiveness of Connecticut's Liquor Prices.

It is in my opinion that the passage of this bill would have a negative impact on people employed in the wholesale end of this industry if such a bill should pass. There are approximately eight hundred (800) hard working men and woman that participate in the warehousing, selection, shipment and delivery of liquor and beer products sold in the State of Connecticut. Should this bill pass, it is expected there would be a loss of approximately 40% of these jobs. This would impact over three hundred (300) families in the State of Connecticut. In addition to the loss of these jobs it is estimated by the liquor wholesalers and the Connecticut Package Store Association that approximately six hundred (600) independent liquor stores would be put out of business impacting another three thousand (3000) jobs and Connecticut families. The State of Connecticut has been investing a lot of money to startup businesses, and yet when a bill like this is being considered it makes one wonder just what the State of Connecticut thinks about its citizens.

A great many of the independent liquor store owners in Connecticut have tied up their life savings and spent their entire working careers in these stores. Nobody is getting rich off of the built in minimum pricing that has been the law in Connecticut for as many years as I can remember. These people work sixty to eighty hours a week to manage their stores and to keep them open in compliance with Connecticut regulations. They have dedicated their lives to this industry and to take that away overnight would be sinful.

Whatever is driving this thought process of eliminating minimum pricing will also have an impact on the general budget for the State of Connecticut. Not only will we have three thousand six hundred (3,600) families not earning money, therefore no income tax being paid; we will have six hundred (600) vacant stores abandoned buildings. We will lose revenue off of the tax dollars because you can't charge the tax on money not received on a sale of a product. This bill has been introduced to create an unfair playing field for these store owners and to give the wealthy an opportunity to create a Walmart syndrome.

I urge you when it is time to vote on the passage on this legislation, to please take into consideration the hard working men and woman and their families that will be impacted by this change and stand up, be counted and vote NO.

If you should have any further questions or concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel J. Flanagan
Secretary-Treasurer / Principal Officer

International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local Union NO. 443