



U.F.C.W. LOCAL NO. 2-D

DISTILLERY, WINE & ALLIED WORKERS' DIVISION, U.F.C.W.

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Testimony of Vincent Fyfe, President Local 2D

United Food & Commercial Workers International Region 1

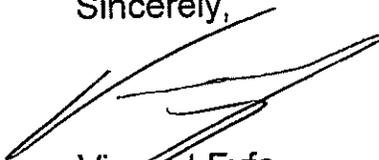
Senator Leone, Representative Baram, members of the General Law Committee. My name is Vincent Fyfe, President of the Local 2D of the United Food and Commercial Workers International, Region 1. Our union represents sales people for Wine & Liquor industry in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. In your state, our local represents more than 200 sales people.

As you are aware, Governor Malloy has proposed the elimination of minimum bottle pricing for liquor in Connecticut through the enactment of Senate Bill 14, "An Act Ensuring the Regional Competiveness of Connecticut's Liquor Prices. I can say unequivocally that our union and its members oppose this bill.

Governor Malloy estimates passage of this measure would increase state revenues by \$2.1 million through additional liquor sales. What the Governor fails to consider is the economic impact on the more than 1,000 package stores in Connecticut, many of which are small "mom and pop" shops serving local neighborhoods. It is estimated that as many as 600 package stores could close should this proposal become law. Such closures would result in fewer jobs in this challenged economy, vacant retail space, lower property taxes and another blow to the state's unemployment fund. For our members, fewer stores mean fewer sales people. With the average sales person's earning commission only and are required to earn an annual minimum to retain employment, the multiplier impact of such a change clearly outweighs the anticipated revenues the Governor expects by eliminating minimum bottle pricing.

In the past few years, the Connecticut legislature has opened up Sunday sales, extended hours of service and increased the number of stores a permittee may own. These changes have clearly benefited consumers. I truly believe, however, that passage of this minimum bottle pricing proposal will have a counter effect by fostering a dramatic consolidation of the industry which will lead to higher liquor prices in the future. This bill should not be approved. Thank You!

Sincerely,



Vincent Fyfe
President