



October 19, 2022

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Ryan Maloney
President
Massachusetts Package Stores Association
30 Lyman St, Suite 2
Westborough, MA 01581

Dear Mr. Maloney:

As a national association representing bar, tavern and package liquor store owners, ABL has long supported states' rights to determine alcohol policy as enshrined by the 21st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. As a result of local control, state alcohol laws reflect the culture and established business practices of each state. Operating on this Constitutional foundation has allowed for the creation of 50 unique and vibrant alcohol marketplaces that meet local consumers' needs with products and service; function to collect taxes that are used for government services; and incorporate accountability to make sure that public safety remains paramount.

Over the last few years, ABL has closely followed independent package stores coming under attack despite successfully serving their communities as essential businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, beverage alcohol retailers from around the country have been watching with great interest the developments leading to Question 3 in Massachusetts, which would address alcohol licensing in the commonwealth.

ABL applauds the Massachusetts Package Stores Association for finding a reasonable compromise to preserve – and hopefully grow – the locally-owned, small business-driven beverage alcohol marketplace that benefits Massachusetts consumers and communities. Locally licensed beverage business owners who have real interests in their communities – a sentiment not necessarily replicated by national or foreign-owned corporations – are embracing the spirit and letter of the 21st Amendment in their efforts to find an equitable licensing compromise that works for Massachusetts.

It is in that regard that we re-emphasize that each state is different and has different alcohol policies, a fact understood and embraced by lawmakers, regulators, the alcohol industry and the public. A similar policy to what is called for by Question 3 may not be appropriate for other states, markets, and the retail beverage alcohol industries in those states. But it is this reality that underscores the beauty and success of the American beverage alcohol ecosystem.

ABL is proud to stand with its members in Massachusetts as they fight for an equitable compromise tailored precisely to meet the needs of Massachusetts residents, businesses, and communities. **We support Massachusetts' homegrown and established beverage alcohol marketplace, the Massachusetts Package Stores Association, Massachusetts consumers and YES on Question 3.**

Sincerely,

John D. Bodnovich
Executive Director
American Beverage Licensees