



## Massachusetts Package Stores Association, Inc.

30 Lyman Street - Suite #2 | Westborough, MA 01581  
Phone: (800) 322-1383 or (508) 366-1100 | Fax: (508) 366-1104

March 19, 2020

Dear MassPack Members,

Please know up front that the association's efforts right now are centered on getting beer, wine and spirits stores (Sec 15 licenses) to be acknowledged as an "essential service."

In looking to see what is happening in New York, Connecticut, New Jersey and Pennsylvania it can be anticipated that Massachusetts could enact a "shelter in place." By including Section 15 licensees as an essential service, we could keep our doors open, if licensees choose to do so, during a shelter in place order in Massachusetts! To this end MassPack has reached out to distributors and wholesalers to reinforce the message with State and local government officials that Section 15 licensees are an essential service. Another consideration worth noting is that it could be foreseeable that Section 15 may only able to provide curbside pick-up and/or delivery.

Understandably the situation is extremely fluid. Please know that MassPack is doing everything imaginable to help our industry. ***We can all assist MassPack's efforts*** by calling or emailing our wholesalers and distributors to tell the Baker administration to include Section 15 licenses in the "essential services" category. Another means of achieving the same result is to not include package stores or section 15 licenses as a non-essential service.

Below is some suggested language to use:

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Section 15 licensees and wholesalers both perform a specialized and essential service to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Unlike other states, and in light of the bar and restaurant closures, package stores licensees (section 15) are the ONLY retail establishment that can legally and responsibly sell beer, wine and spirits in Massachusetts. Markets, big box retailers, convenience stores and package stores all hold Section 15 licenses. Consequently, any temporary suspension of section 15 licenses would in essence prohibit anyone from legally purchasing beer, wine or spirits in the state. While it is recognized that as of this moment there has been NO CONSIDERATION or conversations within the Governor's office about suspending package stores licenses, any future decision to shelter in place should carefully weigh and balance such considerations as there could be many potential realities and consequences of doing so in a public and social environment that is already highly stressed.

Please help our industry during this fluid and challenging time by communicating with the Baker Administrative the need to keep Section 15 licenses (package stores) open for business by including them within any essential service category.

Thank you for your assistance and support of our industry.

Sincerely,

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We can really use the help of the membership in these efforts. Remember, our voices are stronger together...  
**STRENGTH IN UNITY!**

Stay Safe & Carry On!

*Ryan Maloney*

Ryan Maloney, President