



**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Heather Swift  
(212) 681-1380**

**WIGS FAILS AGAIN AS SENATE, ASSEMBLY REJECT BAD IDEA IN BUDGETS  
Governor Cuomo Rejected Job-Killing Idea in Executive Budget**

NEW YORK, NY March 14, 2011— The Last Store on Main Street Coalition today praised the Senate and Assembly for rejecting Wine-in-Grocery-Stores in their one-house budgets; making it clear once again that this bad idea has little support in Albany, despite the Big Money the Big Box stores have spent again this year. Governor Cuomo did not include the dangerous plan in his Executive Budget, making for complete rejection of this job-killing idea.

Jeff Saunders, Coalition founder and President of the Retailers Alliance said, "Today the State Legislature has joined with Governor Cuomo to demonstrate its continued commitment to small business, and creating and protecting jobs in New York State. By excluding Wine-in-Grocery-Stores from their budgets, the Senate and Assembly majorities have preserved the livelihood of middle class families from Buffalo to Babylon. The Big Box stores and their Big Money have failed again."

Michael Correra, Coalition leader and Executive Director of the Metropolitan Package Store Association said, "Despite the Big Money these greedy grocers have spent in Albany, the Legislature looked at the facts and made the right decision on the merits. For the third straight year, the Legislature, this time with the support of Governor Cuomo, has sent the Big Box stores home in defeat."

Stefan Kalogridis, Coalition leader and President of the New York State Liquor Store Association said, "The time has come to focus on new ideas that will lift the entire wine industry, rather than a plan that only helps Big Box stores make larger corporate profits. We urge the State to look for smart ideas to promote New York wines here at home. By increasing consumer demand for New York wines, wineries and retailers, as well as the wine tourism industry and the state coffers, will all benefit."

This marks the third consecutive year the Legislature has stood up to the Big Box special interests, which have poured millions of dollars into their lobbying efforts to sway the Legislature. The Legislature, and Governor Cuomo, recognizes this bad idea would close nearly 1,000 stores, put more than 4,500 people out of work, stunt the growth of small wineries and increase underage drinking.

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