

BRUCE W. BOTH, *President* • ANTHONY G. SPEELMAN, *Secretary / Treasurer* • RHONDA NELSON, *Recorder*

January 27, 2010

The Honorable David A. Paterson
Governor of New York
State Capital
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Paterson:

I am the President of United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW) Local 1500. UFCW Local 1500 is New York State's largest grocery workers Union with 23,000 members located in Long Island, the five boroughs, Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess Counties. Our members work for some of the grocery industries' largest companies, such as Pathmark, King Kullen and Stop and Shop.

After careful consideration, I write you today in opposition to your proposal to legalize the sale of wine in grocery stores. I do so for several reasons.

First and foremost, I bring to your attention to the hundreds of UFCW and the Teamsters members employed in the wine distribution industry that will lose their jobs. These jobs will be lost as the grocery stores use their own purchasing and delivery networks to buy and get wine into their stores. They will seek the lowest cost process that will eliminate good Union jobs. We cannot improve the economy by eliminating good jobs.

Any jobs that proponents of the proposal suggest that may be created in the Supermarkets will be minimal. Our Union strongly doubts any jobs will be created if this proposal is implemented and we have seen no hard data to suggest otherwise.

I would also raise a concern we should all have about this proposal. Allowing irresponsible companies like Walmart to sell wine is, at best, questionable and, at worst, irresponsible. Walmart has a long history of violating the laws of the States where they are located. The laws violated by Walmart include, but are not limited to, wage and hour, environmental, workers rights and discrimination. The only difference in this case is that if Walmart continues its lax approach to abiding by the law, underage drinkers will have greater access to alcohol and therefore increasing the incidents of drinking and driving.

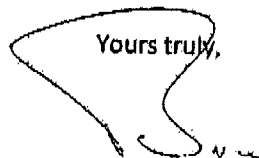
While I appreciate the efforts to develop a "compromise" proposal, it has been crafted with incorrect suppositions about job creation, industry preservation and an overall lack of knowledge about the grocery industry. There is no addition by subtraction in this proposal. There is only a trade off of good union jobs for higher corporate profits. That is no model to build our economy.

Our Union has a long history of working with grocery stores that employ our members to support a sound New York State food policy that can help these industries and our Union grow its membership. However, in this case, we simply disagree on this proposal and any such legislation that would follow should it be pulled from your budget proposal.

Please remove the sale of wine in grocery stores from your budget, oppose any such future legislation and begin to work with our Union and the industry to explore more sound ways to generate revenue and improve our economy.

Thank you for time and consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,



Bruce W. Both
President



BWB:jv