

Good afternoon Mr. Brennan. I am an agent/owner of a liquor store in Coos Bay Oregon. I employ 6 people in my 2,000,000 store. I have owned this store for 7 years and I feel very confident on how we have served the consumers in my town of 15000. In my town there are 2 liquor stores to serve these 15000 people. If any of the current proposals take place, there could be 4 more within a 1 square mile area and a total of 7 in my town. We would go from 2, to 7. While I assure you there are some that will say access like this is good, I can assure you more would tell you there are more negatives than positives any time you give this kind of access to hard liquor in so many locations to ALL individuals, especially minors and individuals who are already intoxicated.

My opinion is in small towns, there is plenty of access to liquor with just one store as it is now. In my town 2 stores service 15,000 people, or average 7500. The town next to me, North Bend services 10,000 people. There could be 6 more stores in North Bend within a 1 square mile area if any of this comes to pass. In our 2 little towns of 25000 people, we could have 14 stores within a 5 square mile area. All 3 of our store volumes for counter sales equal approximately 3.3 million. If any of these proposals go into affect, the volume per location goes from 1.1 million to under 250,000 per store. In these 2 markets, that would be devastating to the current stores.

Maybe a program should be looked at to open markets where the customer is under served vs giving the wal marts of the world, the fred meyers of the world, the big corporations of oregon, the keys to eliminate the small businessman in oregon.

From the experience in washington we have learned that 70% of the previous liquor stores have had to close and the only people who are winning in washington are the corporations. Customers are not and the small businessman is for sure not.

Someone needs to stand against big corporate america, lets do it in oregon! Look at improving the program we have and WHERE it is needed, WHERE the consumer is being underserved, open more agencies. Do not eliminate the program that has worked for years to serve Oregon. Enhance it, tweak it, build upon it and let the small businessman in Oregon survive in the liquor business, vs allowing big corporations to once again put the screws to us and drive us under. Oregon make a stand and dont allow it!

Dont allow our children access to liquor. They cannot even go into a liquor store as the program stands now. How awesome is that? The only access minors have to liquor now is via thier parents or other adults, or steeling beer or wine from a grocery/convenience/drug store.

Do not allow the person who is already intoxicated the access to steeling liquor in a 10000 square foot building where noone is watching. Dont allow those intoxicated to get more access that they currently dont have and possibly cause something that is preventable.

We need your help!

Thank you for reading.
Scott Farlow