



District of Columbia Government
 Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
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 Washington, DC 20013



March 15, 2004

Ms. Sharon Ambrose, Chairperson
 Committee on Consumer and Regulatory Affairs
 Council of District of Columbia
 John A. Wilson Building
 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20004

Ms. Ambrose:

On February 26, 2004 the Committee on Consumer and Regulatory Affairs marked up Bill 15-516, the Omnibus Alcoholic Beverage Amendment Act of 2004. At the Committee mark-up, Councilmember Brazil offered an amendment titled: "Reasonable hours of operation for ABC Retailers Amendment Act of 2003." This legislation extends the hours of operation for Class A establishments until midnight on Saturdays and extends the hours of operation for Class B establishments from 10:00pm until midnight for the entire week. This amendment was approved. This bill will be reported to the Committee of the Whole on March 16, 2004.

Our Commission, with a quorum established, voted unanimously at our regularly scheduled monthly meeting on March 11, 2004, to express opposition to this legislation due to the extension of the hours of operation for Class A and Class B establishments. Furthermore, we request that you offer an amendment at the first available opportunity to remove the Brazil Amendment. Councilmember Graham has indicated that he will support the elimination of the proposed extension of operating hours, which assures you a second to your motion. We urge you to take this highly unusual action on your committee's bill for the following reasons:

- (1) Extending the hours will not significantly increase total purchases of liquor as ample opportunity currently exists. If extended hours generates increased sales tax revenue, this will certainly be offset by a corresponding increase in demand for police, emergency and sanitation services as the hours for those who currently abuse alcohol will simply be extended.
- (2) An overwhelming number of our constituents have expressed opposition to this legislation. In our community, many of the Class B establishments are on residential street corners. Our residents living near these stores are already tolerating the associated noise, loitering, disorderly conduct, and public urination. Currently, these nuisances end at 10:00pm.
- (3) Our community had no advance notice of the Brazil amendment. Since the amendment was a surprise, and there is no opportunity for the public to speak at a committee session to vote on legislation, we would ask that as a matter of fairness and due diligence, this be stricken from the proposed legislation.

In close, we believe immediate action is needed to remove the unacceptable provision of this proposed legislation.

Joseph Fengler, Chair
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cc: Councilmember Graham Councilmember Mendelson Councilmember Orange Councilmember Cropp
 Councilmember Evans Councilmember Patterson Councilmember Catania Councilmember Fenty
 Councilmember Chavous Councilmember Schwartz Councilmember Allen