



TESTIMONY OF TOTAL WINE & MORE ON HF27,
A BILL TO MODIFY THE HOURS OF OPERATION FOR THE OFF-SALE OF LIQUOR ON SUNDAYS,
BEFORE THE MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES' COMMERCE COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 27, 2021

Chairman Stephenson -

My name is Edward Cooper and I serve as Vice President for Public Affairs & Community Relations for Total Wine & More. I appreciate the opportunity to submit this written testimony to the Minnesota House of Representative's Commerce Committee regarding HF 27, a bill introduced by Rep. Tony Jurgens that seeks to modify the hours of operation for the off-sale of liquor on Sundays

There are currently eight Total Wine & More-branded stores in Minnesota that employ 400+ MN team members. Total Wine & More stores seeks to provide customers with that which they deserve: outstanding service, unparalleled selection, best prices and an unmatched customer experience.

Being able to sell liquor for off-sale consumption on Sundays is a major customer convenience. Those retailers who choose to be open for business on that day recognize that Sunday has become one of their busiest sales days of the week.

Rep. Jurgens legislation seeks to shift the hours of operation for those off-sale beverage alcohol retailers who choose to be open on Sundays from the current 11:00am to 6:00pm to 10:00am-5:00pm.

While we applaud the bill's intent to slide the opening time one hour earlier and would respectfully suggest that the bill be amended to retain the 6:00pm closing time, allowing off-sale retailers the option to be open for eight hours on Sundays. The current seven-hour shift on Sundays creates significant scheduling and coverage issues for both employers and their employees. Most businesses in America are on an eight-hour shift system. Shoppers have gotten used to having greater convenience in their shopping habits. They recognize and appreciate those retailers who are open for business when they (the customers) want to shop. Retailers and their employees want and expect a full, eight-hour workday.

At Total Wine & More we believe the Minnesota legislature made a significant step forward in acknowledging customers' changing shopping habits and needs by allowing Sunday sales. We respectfully request that if the legislature were to allow off-premises retailers to further accommodate customers by allowing retailers to open an hour earlier on Sundays, that they also expand the hours of operation on Sundays to a full eight-hour shift.

Thank you,

Edward Cooper
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