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December 7, 2020

Chairman Frank Hoagland  
Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee  
Ohio Senate  
1 Capitol Square, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chair Hoagland and committee members,

My name is Debbie Hosterman, and I'm President of Grinders Above & Beyond. We operate seven restaurants in the greater Canton area. Our organization provides over 375 jobs for Ohio residents, and we are active supporters of numerous civic and charitable activities such as schools and food banks in the communities we serve.

I'm writing to express our strong opposition to the Sunday sales in House Bill 674. Our company has successfully pursued Sunday sales for all of our restaurants beginning in 2013, finding the process to be very accessible and cost effective. One surprising aspect has been the outpouring of support we've received from neighbors for taking the time to reach out to them and ask for their support. When we've expressed appreciation for our customers and neighbors in asking for their help, they've responded with increased patronage and supportive votes.

But as you can imagine, not all voters have been supportive. While we've encountered opposition each time, it was especially intense in Hartville, which had been dry forever. Investing in the community with a new restaurant and operating responsibly enabled us to win public support, and it has been our best restaurant in terms of sales on Sunday. We've played by the rules which apply fairly to all businesses and have earned a competitive advantage.

We would not oppose any business dry on Sunday that wants to take the steps to get the Sunday license as we have done. But we do not believe it is appropriate for the legislature to step in and grant a privilege to businesses who haven't taken the initiative to act for themselves. As you know, the restaurant business is competitive for new and existing businesses alike. Just giving sales to businesses where voters haven't approved them, or in many cases has rejected them, will cut directly into sales from those who have done it the right way. It was suggested to me that our Sunday sales might drop by 25%, but if the number of permits is doubled, I believe our Sunday alcohol sales would decline by closer to 50%.

This really should be a local issue. Please protect the existing businesses who have done it the right way, along with the rights of local voters to decide, by rejecting Sunday sales in House Bill 674.

Sincerely,

Debbie Hosterman  
President