



OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE  
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September 15, 2020

Senator Frank Hoagland  
Chair  
Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Senator Hoagland:

We write this letter to express of our opposition to Ohio House Bill 674.

Today- Ohio residents are given the opportunity to decide if beer, wine and spirits are to be sold in their community. The Ohio Division of Liquor together with local boards of elections let Ohio residents through a series ballot options decide if any alcohol is to be sold- and if so- then they determine what types of alcohol and on what days of the week it will be sold. The ballot option system **lets Ohio residents decide what is best for their neighborhood**. A provision inside House Bill 674 would eliminate a Sunday-sales liquor distinction that is currently determined using the ballot option. HB 674 would in an instant give Sunday liquor sales to thousands of businesses- who have not earned that distinction through the ballot option. HB 674 **would strip the decision away from local residents** and the communities in which they live.

We believe we have been a reliable and responsible partner with the Division of Liquor. Discount Drug Mart has worked closely with the Division over our 50 years as a company to make sure we are adhering to the established rules and regulations- we have played by the rules. **HB 674 would change the rules- and would hurt Ohio companies including our own**. Discount Drug Mart has 76 locations in Ohio- our stores are only in Ohio. For each of our stores- we have established Sunday sales by working with the Division of Liquor and local boards of elections to ask local residents for their approval.

Eliminating the Sunday-sales liquor ballot option **would only harm Ohio companies** like ours. Most Ohio companies (e.g. Kroger, Marc's, Heinen's & Buehler's) like Discount Drug Mart have gained Sunday sales through the ballot option- while most of the out-of-state companies have not gained Sunday sales through the ballot option. Dollar General (based in Goodlettsville,

Tennessee) has 361 locations in Ohio. **Of the 361 Dollar General locations in Ohio- only 2 locations have Sunday sales.** If HB 674 passes- the other 359 Dollar General locations without Sunday sales will suddenly have that privilege. More than 60% of the Walgreens stores (based in Deerfield, Illinois) and CVS stores (based in Woonsocket, Rhode Island) **do not** have Sunday sales. By comparison- 100% of Discount Drug Mart locations have Sunday sales.

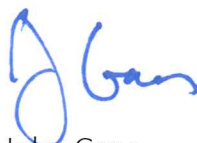
We believe HB 674 is an **affront to Ohio residents that will take away their right** to determine what is best for their neighborhoods and communities. We believe HB 674 is an attack on Ohio's companies and their employees. Eliminating the Sunday sales distinction would take away from Ohio companies an earned competitive advantage. The passage of **HB 674 would merely give** the Sunday sales distinction to everyone.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully-



Don Boodjeh  
Chief Executive Officer



John Gans  
President

Discount Drug Mart is an employee owned company based in Medina, Ohio. We are celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> year in business in 2019. Our 76 stores and pharmacies are located just in Ohio. Discount Drug Mart employs more than 3,700 Ohioans including more than 230 pharmacists. Our founder, a pharmacist, opened our first location Elyria, Ohio. Today- his two sons and daughter run the company. Our corporate headquarters and distribution center are in Medina, Ohio.

Please contact Steve Ferris, Discount Drug Mart, Governmental Affairs Director, with any questions and if you would like any additional information. Steve can be reached by telephone 216-262-6522 or by email at [sferris@discount-drugmart.com](mailto:sferris@discount-drugmart.com).

cc Senate President Larry Obhof  
Representative Steve Hambley  
Members, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee



AGRICULTURE AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date 9/15/20

Name: STEVE FERRIS

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Organization Representing: DISCOUNT DRUG MART

Testifying on Bill Number: HB 674

Testimony:  Verbal  Written  Both

Testifying As:  Proponent  Opponent  Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist?  Yes  No

Special Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

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