

Sample Letter For Retailers

[COMPANY LETTERHEAD]

[Date]

The Honorable [FIRST NAME] [LAST NAME]
New York State [ASSEMBLY/SENATE]
[STREET ADDRESS]
[CITY], New York [ZIP CODE]

Dear Senator/Assemblymember [LAST NAME]:

I write to you as a liquor store owner to express my opposition to A10550/S8392 (Fahy/Hoylman) and A10534-A/S8565 (Cymbrowitz/Benjamin) or any other legislation that would allow restaurants and bars to sell alcohol “to go” for off-premise consumption.

As a member of the NYS Liquor Store Association, an association that serves the off-premise retail beverage industry in upstate New York, we have recognized the hardship those in the restaurant and bar industry have faced and we have not opposed Governor Cuomo’s temporary actions in the form of Executive Orders to provide them an economic lifeline.

While liquor stores have been able to operate throughout the current public health crisis as essential businesses, many of them have also experienced negative economic impacts during these times. My liquor store, [COMPANY NAME], **is located in your district** at [STREET ADDRESS]. We have been a neighborhood business for over [NUMBER] years. During the COVID-19 shutdown, we have experienced [LOWER SALES, HAVING TO LAY OFF WORKERS, ETC.].

Bills such as those listed above merely shift the economic burden from the restaurant and bar industry, many of whom are large national chains, onto small mom and pop liquor stores. We have seen during the limited period of the Governor’s Executive Orders that many restaurants and bars operate as if they were liquor stores, in many instances offering full bottles of liquor and wine at retail prices. As a result, we have witnessed the explosion in open container violations throughout the state and blatant disregard for social distancing outside bars and restaurants. We are concerned that making these temporary “to-go” privileges permanent will also lead to an increase in DWI’s, underage drinking, and other alcohol and public health related offenses.

The three-tier system of alcohol distribution in New York has worked since the end of prohibition and we should not look to upend the system. Creating over one hundred new “liquor stores” in our area, as these bills would do, would be economically devastating to my business and may force me to close down for good.

As your constituent, I respectfully ask that you protect my small business and oppose A.10550/S.8392 (Fahy/Hoylman) and A.10534-A/S.8565 (Cymbrowitz/Benjamin).

Sincerely,