



**ATHENA**  
SOLUTIONS GROUP, LLC

***Via Electronic Mail***

May 2, 2024

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney  
Chair, House Finance Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: SUPPORT H-7277**

AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- SALES AND USE TAXES -- LIABILITY AND COMPUTATION  
(Exempts from the sales and use tax the sale of beer and malt beverages at retail.)

**Chairman Abney and members of the House Finance Committee:**

On behalf of the Alcoholic Beverage Wholesaler Dealers of Rhode Island, I write in support of House bill 7277 introduced by Representative Baginski, which seeks to establish retail sales tax parity with Massachusetts.

Wine and spirits are already exempt from the sales tax in Rhode Island, but ALL alcoholic beverages are exempt from the sales tax in Massachusetts.

This legislation and its sponsors are seeking to bring fairness and equity against border sales that hurt our businesses. Passage of this legislation is in the best interest of Rhode Island's locally owned retailers, who currently are losing the business of customers who don't mind the brief drive across the border to save money.

Thank you for your consideration on this legislation and the opportunity it presents to help local businesses and consumers.

Sincerely,

George A Zainyeh

Cc: The Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee (via  
HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov)