



TO: The Honorable Members of the PA House Liquor Control Committee

FROM: Alex Halper, Director, Government Affairs

DATE: June 8, 2022

RE: Support H.B. 2272 – Privatizing alcohol sales

On behalf of the PA Chamber, I urge you to support H.B. 2272 to privatize alcohol sales in Pennsylvania, which the Committee is scheduled to consider today.

Pennsylvania employers and entrepreneurs have long sought opportunities to start or grow a business by selling alcohol; and unless there exists a specific and legitimate reason, government in a free enterprise economy should defer to the private sector.

The business community has proven to be fully capable of responsibly selling alcohol in other states and even here in Pennsylvania, as certain private retailers were recently permitted to sell wine and beer. These positive steps towards a modern system have benefited employers and employees and enhanced customer convenience.

Almost 90 years ago Pennsylvania adopted a system of state control over the sale of wine and spirits in order to, according to then-Governor Gifford Pinchot, “discourage the purchase of alcoholic beverages by making it as inconvenient and expensive as possible.” It is time for state government to move from the business of selling alcohol and focus on enforcing the law and combatting abuse and underage drinking.

We urge you to support this bill. Please contact Alex Halper at ahalper@pachamber.org or 717-645-8730 with questions or to discuss.