

Dear (Governor Cuomo, Senator ____, Assembly member ____)

I am writing to express my opposition to any and all legislation that will permit the sale of wine in grocery stores in our state.

If this becomes law, many small businesses will be forced to close their doors, costing the state thousands of valuable jobs. New York already leads the nation in job losses, and I can't imagine why the state would sanction a proposal that makes things worse.

New York wineries will not benefit from the sale of wine in these stores because the big box stores and supermarket chains will stock their shelves with wines that they can sell cheaply and garner the largest profit. These will be national and international brand-name wines and not those produced in our state. The New York winery owners understand this and that is why the majority are opposed to this scheme.

Plus, this proposal would make it much easier for teenagers to get access to alcohol. New York wine sellers are small businesses whose licenses are revoked if they fail to prevent youth from purchasing alcohol. Grocery stores cannot manage this risk as effectively. New York would become like Florida, California and Texas, where wine is sold everywhere and where three times as many kids younger than 21 die each year from alcohol-related incidents.

Our state has felt enough pain. We must seek long term solutions to our financial problems and not place our hopes on quick fix schemes that, clearly, are only short-term remedies.

Respectfully,