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## **WINE RETAILERS SUPPORT ILLINOIS WINE SHIPPING BILL AND CONSUMER ACCESS TO WINE MARKET**

### **Proposed Law Would Raise Revenue For State and Protect Minors**

(Springfield, ILLINOIS)—The Specialty Wine Retailers Association (SWRA) announced today its support for Illinois House Bill 2462 and its aim of restoring consumers' rights to have wine shipped to them from out-of-state wine stores and auction houses. If passed, the bill would create a well-regulated, permit-based structure for retailer-to-consumer wine shipping similar to that passed in 2007 for out-of-state wineries.

The new legislation was introduced by Representative Julie Hamos (Evanston), the most vocal supporter of consumer rights and free trade in 2007 when the Illinois legislature needlessly stripped Illinoisans of a 15-year-old right to have wine shipped to them from out-of-state retailers. Hamos, along with Representatives Coladipietro, Currie, Feigenholtz, May and Mulligan all opposed HB 429—the 2007 bill signed by Governor Blagojevich that restricted retailer-to-consumer shipping of wine and protected the profits of the special interests that supported the restrictions on wine shipping.

### **INCREASED TAX REVENUE, PROTECTION OF MINORS**

The new legislation would not only restore to Illinoisans' the right to have wine shipped to them from out-of-state wine stores, but would also provide critical additional tax revenue by placing a sales tax on all wine shipments into the state from retailers. Wine shipments into Illinois would be regulated under a permit system for out-of-state retailers that require them to submit to Illinois legal and regulatory jurisdiction, pay Illinois sales tax and receive adult signatures for deliveries.

“This is outstanding legislation that puts in place all the same protections against minor access to wine and tax collection abilities that were imposed on wineries when they were given the right to ship wine to Illinois residents” said Tom Wark, executive director of the SWRA. “To-date, those protections have worked well where winery shipping is concerned and there is no reason to believe they won't work equally well for wine shipments into the state by wine stores.”

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#### **Contact:**

Tom Wark, Specialty Wine Retailers Association  
707-935-4424 • [twark@specialtywineretailers.org](mailto:twark@specialtywineretailers.org)