



Michigan Alcohol Policy Promoting Health & Safety

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House Committee on Regulatory Reform
Room 521, House Office Building
124 North Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI

Good Morning Chairman Crawford and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mike Tobias and I represent Michigan Alcohol Policy Promoting Health and Safety (MAP). MAP, as we're commonly known as, is a grassroots, nonprofit organization with no paid staff or formal funding. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in opposition of SB79 and SB279.

MAP opposes these bills for the following reasons:

- With over 16,000 retail outlets alcohol is readily available to the citizens of Michigan. Allowing wine sales and sampling will increase alcohol outlet density and some of our communities are already struggling with this issue. Extensive research has been done that demonstrate the problems associated with outlet density and for more information you can go to: <http://www.thecommunityguide.org/mvoi/AID/BAC-laws.html>.
- Some community coalitions have identified farmers markets as "safe places" that support people in recovery. Allowing wine sales and sampling at farmers markets will be one more place where people will be offered alcohol.
- Allowing wine sales and sampling at farmer's markets is not necessary. Under the current system of alcohol regulation, Michigan wines have grown at a rate of about 10 percent every year since 2005 (according to the Michigan Grape and Wine Industry Council).
- Many parents and people do not want alcohol to be sold everywhere. Historically, Farmers Markets are family friendly places that are seen as healthy places to buy fruit, vegetables, and other produce. Keep farmers markets alcohol free!

Thank you for your attention and I will be glad to try and answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Tobias
Executive Director