



GENEVA, NY
SENSATIONAL BY NATURE!

Governor David Paterson
Executive Offices, State House
Albany, NY

December 20, 2009

Dear Governor Paterson,

Earlier this year, the Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce strongly supported the initiative to allow the sales of wine in grocery stores in New York. With more than one hundred wineries in the Finger Lakes, the impact on our regional economy is significant and growing. A wine touring industry has sprung up, with a powerful influence on our tourism economy. But wine tasting tourists alone aren't sufficient to support this important growth industry. More opportunities to increase sales are needed, and the many sales outlets at stores throughout the state provide part of the solution.

We are aware of the arguments of those opposed to wine sales outside of liquor stores. We don't believe that it has to be detrimental to small liquor stores, especially if off-setting opportunities for sales of related goods, beer, snacks and other things are provided for.

The benefit to the state of the sales taxes that would ensue, without an actual tax increase, as well as related fees, would be significant, and there would be job creation at a time that we really need it.

The guiding principle behind the chamber's position is the belief in the free enterprise system. Businesses should be as free as possible to innovate, grow and provide us with the benefits of their production, as well as to benefit themselves from their hard work. Our laws prohibiting wine sales are out of date and make no sense. We strongly urge you to include this initiative in your budget again, and you can count on our support.

Thank you very much,

Very truly yours,

Rob Gladden, President

Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce

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