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ILLINOIS WINE CONSUMERS ORGANIZATION OPPOSES PROPOSED ANTI WINE SHIPPING LEGISLATION

**—H.R. 5034 Would Further Erode Consumer Choices and Harm Artisanal Producers
Across the Country—**

(CHICAGO, IL)—The Illinois Wine Consumer Coalition (IWCC), a grassroots group of more than 1,000 wine lovers across the State of Illinois has come out in opposition to the proposed Comprehensive Alcohol Regulatory Effectiveness (CARE) Act of 2010 currently known as H.R. 5034.

H.R. 5034 will further entrench the power of private wine, beer and liquor distributorships under the guise of reaffirming a state's right to tax and regulate alcohol. By "affirming" this right of the state, their citizenry would be exempted from protections enjoyed under the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution. Opponents to discriminatory state regulations would be forced to prove that the law: "Has no effect on the promotion of temperance, the establishment or maintenance of orderly alcoholic beverage markets, the collection of alcoholic beverage taxes, the structure of the state alcoholic beverage distribution system, or the restriction of access to alcoholic beverages by those under the legal drinking age."

"We believe that this burden of proof is unreasonable," said Gretchen Neuman, spokesperson for the IWCC. "Indeed, under the proposed legislation, a State need only claim that its regulations were achieving the aim of collecting taxes and preventing minors from illegally accessing alcohol in order to avoid litigation. "We believe that the State of Illinois is entitled to regulate and tax the liquor market," stated Neuman, "But we strenuously object to that power being unchecked and in the hands of Distributors."

PASSAGE OF ANTI-CONSUMER WINE BILL SPURS GROUP'S CREATION

Illinois wine consumers have already been stripped of their right to purchase wine from out-of-state wine retailers in 2008. The passage of HB 429 removed this right after Illinoisans had enjoyed full access to the American wine market for 15 years. The fact that consumers were never taken into account during deliberations over HB 429 helped give impetus to the creation of the IWCC, whose internet home can be found at <http://www.illinoiswineconsumers.org>.

The IWCC is all too aware of the impact that monied interests can have in our State Legislatures and believes that closing the alcohol market to the Commerce Clause will lead to further abuses, specifically denying the rights of adult consumers to purchase wine directly from wineries as is currently allowed. Not only would the American Wine Industry be devastated but millions of citizens would be denied their

right to purchase the wine of their choice. Worse yet, this flawed legislation is co-sponsored by Rep. Mike Quigley, (D-IL, 5th) Rep. Bill Foster (D-IL, 14th) and Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-IL, 2nd), all Illinoisans who have previously heard our protests over the stripping away of our rights.

WINE LOVERS ACROSS ILLINOIS INVITED TO ADD VOICES TO DISSENT

We call on wine lovers and those who support free trade in Illinois to contact Rep. Quigley, Rep. Foster and Rep. Jackson as well as their own Congressmen and demand that they oppose this unjust regulation. We urge citizens to join advocacy groups such as IWCC and Free The Grapes to assure that your voices are being heard.

For further information and links to Free The Grapes and your House delegates please go to the Illinois Wine Consumer Coalition website. <http://www.illinoiswineconsumers.org> .

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