To whom it may concern:

I am writing to object to the increase in the markup on the price of liquor. This is a backdoor tax that is being used to fund state government rather than the operations of the ABC. Only the legislature should have the power to tax the people of the state of Alabama. This is taxation without representation in its truest form. Unelected officials should not have taxing authority.

While this increase is “only 5 basis points,” it is in addition to the 30 percent markup to which the products are already subject. Then, on top of the markup there is an additional 56 percent liquor tax as well as six percent sales tax. Alabama leads the nation in liquor taxes and we are truly taxed too much.

Funding of the district attorneys does not meet the regulatory standard for a price increase. The regulation which governs the ABC Board gives four circumstances under which it is proper to raise the price of liquor. The regulation states:

The ABC Board will, from time to time at its discretion, adjust these markups for such circumstances as: (1) timing to adjust for price increases or decreases by distillers; (2) deciding whether short-term and/or small discounts extended by the distiller are to be passed through to customers; (3) depletion of inventory of slow moving items that are to be closed out; and (4) for other unique market circumstances.

The current scheme to fund the district attorneys through this manner is also patently unfair to the citizens of the State of Alabama. There is no reason why citizens in “wet” areas should fund the services of citizens in areas “dry” that do not contribute to the revenue sources.

Additionally, restaurants are the single largest purchaser of liquor in the state of Alabama. While we support funding the district attorneys in our state, it should not be done on the backs of the small business owners in Alabama. While the economy in Alabama is better than in the recent past, restaurant sales are still soft and this is not time to raise taxes on an already thinly-margined industry.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,