

**MIKE REGAN**  
**31ST SENATORIAL DISTRICT**

SENATE BOX 203031  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3031  
(717) 787-8524  
TTY (800) 364-1581

1 EAST HARRISBURG STREET  
DILLSBURG, PA 17019  
(717) 432-1730  
(717) 975-1985

MREGAN@PASEN.GOV  
SENATORMIKEREGANPA.COM



**Senate of Pennsylvania**

**COMMITTEES**

LAW AND JUSTICE, CHAIR

LOCAL GOVERNMENT,  
VICE-CHAIR

COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC, &  
RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CONSUMER PROTECTION &  
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

JUDICIARY

RULES & EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 10, 2023

Tim Holden, Chairman  
Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board  
Northwest Office Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0001

***SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL***

Chairman Holden:

Recently, I was informed that the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board is planning to impose a new 4% rate increase on over three thousand of the most popular wine and spirits products in the Commonwealth.

The proposed price increase is not the result of increased production cost on the supplier side, but in actuality, is an arbitrary decision by your executives to impose an additional 4% tax on these popular products, bringing the total tax to nearly 30%.

I am very troubled by the lack of transparency and timing of the announcement. Not only has the board granted full discretion to staff with no board approval required, but the Wolf Administration also ends on January 17th, 2023. Imposing a last-minute, additional liquor tax on Pennsylvania consumers, in the waning hours of an Administration undermines the public's faith in government and is bad public policy.

Transparency has continued to be a concern I have voiced to the Board. During my time as both Chairman and a sitting member of the committee, the board has lacked transparency in situations such as closing state stores and rationing products. Even after the repeated requests for more transparency, the PLCB continues to operate and make decisions behind closed doors.

Any decision on additional liquor taxes should be left to the new Administration and the legislature, which Pennsylvania's Constitution vests sole power to levy taxes.

As Chairman of the Senate Law and Justice Committee, I strongly urge you to withdraw the matter of this additional liquor tax from your January 11th agenda.

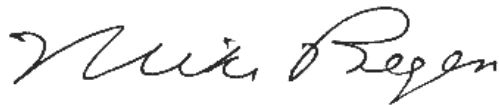
Chairman Holden  
January 10, 2023  
Page 2

There is no denying that inflation is affecting all aspects of business, but at a time when Pennsylvanians are seeing record increases on everything from heating their homes to buying groceries, the PLCB, a governmental agency, needs to look within placing further hardships on Pennsylvanians.

Again, Chairman Holden, I request that the PLCB refrain from this proposed increase until the legislature and the new Administration has had time to fully consider the potential impact and ramifications of a new tax increase on Commonwealth consumers and the PLCB has had the opportunity to justify the need for this tax hike in front of my colleagues in the Senate and the House.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this correspondence.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Regan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Regan, Chairman  
Senate Law & Justice Committee

cc: Mary Isenhour, Member  
Randy Vulakovich, Member