



Senator Shirkey, Chairman  
Senate Committee on Michigan Competitiveness  
Testimony on SB 929 (Meekhof)  
5/11/2016

Chairman Shirkey, committee members, thank you taking up SB 929 and allowing me to testify today. My name is Dan Papineau and I am the director of government relations for the Associated Food and Petroleum Dealers or AFPD for short.

As the "Voice for the food, beverage and petroleum industry" since 1910, AFPD is a multi-state trade association representing thousands of retailers operating in Michigan and surrounding states. Our members include chain stores, independent supermarkets, convenience stores, gas stations and specialty food markets. Our membership also includes wholesalers, distributors and manufacturers who support the retail industry.

Due to our diverse membership make up the AFPD advocates for comprehensive policy that is fair for everyone and why we support the legislation before you. We believe SB 929 creates a fair and level playing field for all of our members to compete in whether they are a gas station, convenience store, supermarket, etc. Eliminating arbitrary criteria for a gas station to meet in order to sell beer and wine makes sense. By putting into place a quota for SDM licenses, similar to how SDD or off premise spirit licenses are handled, we can bring fairness to the marketplace while still fostering a business environment that provides predictability and stability to an industry that sells arguably the most regulated product in Michigan.

The AFPD supports SB 929 and thanks Senate Majority Leader Meekhof for his willingness to push forward this reform. And again, I also thank you Mr. Chairman and committee members and urge your support for SB 929.