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## **Food with Wine Coalition Seeks Injunction against Statute that Prohibits Kentucky Grocers from Selling Wine and Spirits**

The Food with Wine Coalition, a non-profit organization of grocers from across the Commonwealth, filed a complaint in Federal court in Louisville this week seeking an injunction against enforcement of the statute that prohibits Kentucky grocers from obtaining a wine and spirits license.

Coalition members believe that the current statute is unfair to Kentucky's grocery shoppers and that it is actually unconstitutional. "We believe the current statute to be a violation of the equal protection clauses of both the U.S. Constitution and the Kentucky Constitution," said Franklin Jelsma, attorney for Wyatt, Tarrant and Combs, the firm representing the Coalition.

Wine is by far the most requested item by grocery shoppers in Kentucky. Thirty-four other states currently allow grocery shoppers to select a bottle of wine while they shop for their food; this includes six of Kentucky's seven border-states. "Kentuckians deserve the same convenience. The current laws go all the way back to prohibition, it is time that they are updated," said Ted Mason, Executive Director of the Kentucky Grocer's Association.

Dave Maxwell, co-owner of a Pic Pac Market in Louisville, Kentucky, and a co-plaintiff in the complaint said "It's simply unfair that I cannot offer wine to my customers while pharmacies and liquor stores can sell groceries and wine together".

Changing this outdated statute would generate millions of dollars of much needed tax revenue annually for the Commonwealth. Expansion of wine and spirit sales in food stores would occur only in stores where beer can be sold currently, dry counties would not be impacted by this whatsoever.

For more information visit [www.foodwithwine.org](http://www.foodwithwine.org)