



March 20, 2018

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The purpose of this correspondence is to encourage your support for SB18-198.

In Colorado, there are over 1,600 fermented malt beverage licensees selling 3.2 beer. Without action by the General Assembly, all 1,600 of those licensees will be permitted to sell malt liquor beginning on January 1, 2019. By definition, malt liquor includes a wide range of products, many of which contain high alcohol content. This change would immediately double the number of retail outlets in the State of Colorado selling malt liquor. Many of these 3.2 licenses are located very close to schools. This fact is particularly troubling to me in my other capacity as the Director of School Safety and Security at Greeley-Evans School District 6. Eighteen year olds should not be allowed to sell alcohol that they cannot buy themselves. This is already a requirement for liquor stores. We should not lower the threshold for convenience stores that are much more heavily trafficked by persons under the age of twenty-one.

Local governments and neighborhoods should be able to have input regarding what happens in their respective communities. There needs to be a mechanism for local governments to at least have the option to review whether their communities want these additional malt liquor retailers. SB198 would provide that option. Thank you for the opportunity to communicate with regard to this very important issue.

Respectfully,

John Gates

John Gates
Mayor
City of Greeley, CO