



Hon. Dalton McGuinty
Premier
Office of the Premier of Ontario
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

September 8, 2006

Dear Premier,

On behalf of the Ontario Restaurant Hotel & Motel Association (ORHMA), I am writing with regard to recent media reports suggesting the Provincial Government is currently considering implementing a deposit and return system on LCBO wine and spirits containers. We are also aware that the Standing Committee on Government Agencies received support for this proposal from the Environmental Commissioner recently. We have followed the discussion in the media with interest.

Ontario's 17,100 liquor sales licensees represent 10.6% of total LCBO sales at \$371 million, and will obviously be significantly impacted by the introduction of a deposit and return system. There are obvious concerns that must be addressed both with a system-wide and individual operator perspective, including but not limited to public health and safety, increased product costs, storage capacity, staff time, and system funding.

Membership of the ORHMA is not limited to licensed foodservice establishments, and a number of our members are involved with waste diversion initiatives and are obligated stewards in accordance with the Waste Diversion Act and its regulations. The elimination of LCBO products from the municipal blue box system would also have serious implications for obligated stewards, and this cannot be taken lightly and must be given serious consideration.

Accordingly, Premier, the ORHMA would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you or your staff at the earliest opportunity to discuss the implications a deposit and return system would have on the hospitality industry, and we look forward to working with you to ensure that all implications are given their due consideration.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Terry Mundell
President & CEO