

ALABAMA

Select Spirits

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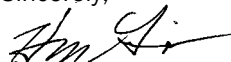
Dear Licensees:

It's time to kick off another football season here in the great State of Alabama. From one end of the state to the other, season tickets are being bought and tailgate parties are being planned. No matter what team you cheer for, we should all work together to promote responsibility when it comes to consumption of alcoholic beverages. As suppliers, brokers, retailers and ABC Board employees, we play an important part in the battle against the abuse of alcohol products. Unified, we share a common objective of eliminating alcohol abuse, underage consumption and drunk driving. A variety of voices increases the chances of the message being heard. If you need information on, or help with improving skills in, legal-age determination and refusing sales, please contact our Responsible Vendor Program. They offer standardized training for the employees in sale and service of alcoholic beverages.

Last fiscal year, the ABC Board through its operations, provided more than \$251 million to state and local governments in Alabama. This included nearly \$80 million to the state's general fund, more than \$59 million to the state Department of Human Resources, \$41 million to the Department of Mental Health, \$33 million to education, almost \$20 million to Alabama cities and counties, more than \$16.8 million to the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency and spent almost \$1.8 million to purchase vehicles for the Department of Corrections. The ABC Board operating expenses are paid by consumers of alcoholic beverages. The general public is not taxed to cover ABC Board expenses unless they purchase controlled products, although they do benefit from ABC operations through revenue distribution.

I would like to thank all of our customers, vendors and employees for their hard work. We will continue to find ways to enhance service, cut operating costs, increase revenues and reevaluate the operation for effective ways to better serve the citizens of Alabama. The Board and I realize that you are indispensable to our success, and we hope that the combination of our services and products are meeting your needs. As always, customer service remains a top priority. Please feel free to contact my office any time you have questions or need assistance.

Sincerely,



H.M. Gipson

