Join Assemblywoman Addie J. Russell in fighting the "Floor Tax."

To: Governor David Paterson, Speaker Sheldon Silver, Majority Leader Malcolm Smith

We oppose the "Floor Tax"—a costly, excessive tax that will hurt local wineries, breweries, restaurants, beer and wine wholesalers, and retailers. It is unfair, has myriad unintended consequences, and should not be included in the state budget.

The tax requires business owners to pay an additional 11 cents per gallon of wine and 3 cents per gallon of beer on their inventory stocked on May 1 – and have only until July 20 to pay. This comes on top of a new increase in the state's excise tax, and means businesses are being taxed TWICE on these goods.

According to local business owners, the floor tax has driven recent sales down, as much as 20 percent in some cases, because businesses are being forced to cut their inventories in order to be able to afford the Floor Tax. During the current economic crisis, it is absolutely essential that we support small businesses. This petition sends a message to Albany that the Floor Tax is unfair, unnecessary and unwelcome.

Print Name	Address	E-mail