

PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2023

NORTHWEST OFFICE BUILDING, CONFERENCE ROOM 117, HARRISBURG, PA
MICROSOFT TEAMS MEETING

Tim Holden, Chairman
Mary Isenhour, Board Member
Randy Vulakovich, Board Member
Michael Demko, Executive Director
Michael Vigoda, Board Secretary

[Office of Chief Counsel](#)
[Bureau of Licensing](#)
[Bureau of Human Resources](#)
[Bureau of Accounting & Purchasing](#)

[Office of Retail Operations](#)
[Bureau of Product Selection](#)
[Financial Report](#)
[Other Issues](#)

PUBLIC MEETING – 11:00 A.M

CALL TO ORDER *Chairman Holden*

Board Secretary Michael Vigoda indicated that a quorum of the Board was present and Chairman Holden called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

OLD BUSINESS.....*Secretary Vigoda*

A. Motion to approve previous Board Meeting Minutes of the July 20, 2023 meeting.

Motion Made: Board Member Isenhour
Seconded: Board Member Vulakovich

Board Decision: Unanimously agreed (3-0 vote) to approve previous Board Meeting Minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board has reserved 10 minutes for public comment.

Mr. John Logan of Rectified Spirits LLC read from a prepared statement. The full statement is available at the end of the minutes.

Deputy Executive Director Elizabeth Brassell offered thanks to Mr. Logan for his comments and asked that he share his statement and contact information via the communications resource account at ra-lbcommunications@pa.gov so that PLCB staff members may better address his concerns. Mr. Logan agreed to send the statement.

Mr. Tim Kida- Offered some recommendations for a better customer experience on the FWGS.com website. Mr. Kida asked if Special Order items could be shown in a separate section and for out-of-stock items to be eliminated. Specifically, Mr. Kida asked if there is a way for out-of-stock items to be

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removed from the website as soon as they are sold out so that people are not shopping for unavailable products.

Deputy Executive Director Brassell asked Mr. Kida to clarify which product was showing as available but was out-of-stock. Mr. Kida stated it was the Weller Antique 107. Ms. Brassell thanked Mr. Kida for his comments and stated they would be taken under advisement.

NEW BUSINESS

From the Office of Chief Counsel.....Rodrigo Diaz, Chief Counsel

- (1) **Kee-Mar, Inc.** Request for Rescission of
655 Baldwin Street Conditional Licensing Agreement
Bridgeville, Pennsylvania 15017-2524
Restaurant Liquor License No. R-9968
LID 14129

Motion Made: Board Member Isenhour
Seconded: Board Member Vulakovich

Board Decision: Unanimously agreed (3-0 vote) to rescind the conditional licensing agreement.

- (2) **Major League Bottle Shop, LLC** Request for Rescission of
135 Logan Street Conditional Licensing Agreement
Lewistown, PA 17044-1818
Restaurant Liquor License No. R-15726
LID 70016

Motion Made: Board Member Isenhour
Seconded: Board Member Vulakovich

Board Decision: Unanimously agreed (3-0 vote) to rescind the conditional licensing agreement.

- (3) **FC&G, Inc.** Request for Rescission of
215 Clark Avenue Conditional Licensing Agreement
Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1011
Restaurant Liquor License No. R-2867
LID 66168

Motion Made: Board Member Isenhour
Seconded: Board Member Vulakovich

Board Decision: Unanimously agreed (3-0 vote) to rescind the conditional licensing agreement.

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- (4) **Bluejack, LLC** Request for Rescission of
600 Lincoln Avenue Conditional Licensing Agreement
Bellevue, Pennsylvania 15202
Restaurant Liquor License No. R-12469
LID 116224
- Motion Made:** Board Member Isenhour
Seconded: Board Member Vulakovich
- Board Decision:** Unanimously agreed (3-0 vote) to rescind the conditional licensing agreement.
- (5) **KRG Kings, LLC** Proposal to Allow for the Renewal
950 Presque Isle Drive of the Liquor License
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15239-2726
Restaurant Liquor License No. R-7901
LID 87158
Docket No. SA-23-000144 (Allegheny County)
- Motion Made:** Board Member Isenhour
Seconded: Board Member Vulakovich
- Board Decision:** Unanimously agreed (3-0 vote) to resolve the matter and renew the license.
- (6) **L & J 530, Inc.** ALJ Appeal
t/a M & M Lounge
530 Maryland Avenue
York, PA 17404-2822
License No. R-18267/LID 68372
Citation No. 21-0498
- Motion Made:** Board Member Isenhour
Seconded: Board Member Vulakovich
- Board Decision:** Unanimously agreed (3-0 vote) to affirm the ALJ's decision.
- (7) **Falcorntix, Inc.** ALJ Appeal
t/a Tunnelton Inn
10 East Third Avenue
Saltsburg, PA 15681
License No. R-10192/LID 85292
Citation No. 20-0998
- Motion Made:** Board Member Isenhour
Seconded: Board Member Vulakovich
- Board Decision:** Unanimously agreed (3-0 vote) to affirm the ALJ's decision and remand for action.

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(8) Falcornetix, Inc. ALJ Appeal
t/a Tunnelton Inn
10 East Third Avenue
Saltsburg, PA 15681
License No. R-10192/LID 85292
Citation No. 20-1220

Board Member Isenhour initially made a motion to refuse the renewal of the license. Chief Counsel Rod Diaz interjected to explain that on the agenda there are three separate citation appeals all concerning the same licensee, and that the current agenda item was addressing the second of those three citations. Mr. Diaz went on to explain that this citation was a violation related to Covid-19 restrictions, and is similar to dozens of other appeals. The Licensee admits to the facts, acknowledges the violation, but argues that the Covid-19 rules were not legal. Mr. Diaz reminded Board Member Isenhour that the Board traditionally has affirmed those appeals and remanded for action. Board Member Isenhour then amended her motion.

Motion Made: Board Member Isenhour
Seconded: Board Member Vulakovich

Board Decision: Unanimously agreed (3-0 vote) to affirm the ALJ’s decision and remand for action.

(9) Falcornetix, Inc. ALJ Appeal
t/a Tunnelton Inn
10 East Third Avenue
Saltsburg, PA 15681
License No. R-10192/LID 85292
Citation No. 21-0579

Motion Made: Board Member Isenhour
Seconded: Board Member Vulakovich

Board Decision: Unanimously agreed (3-0 vote) to affirm the ALJ’s decision and remand for action.

*From the Bureau of Licensing Tisha Albert, Director of Regulatory Affairs
Andrew Stuffick, Director, Bureau of Licensing*

(1) 220 Eatery, LLC Renewal – Eating Place Malt
E-1804 (LID No. 97506) Case No. 22-9154 Beverage
7468 South Route 220 Highway
Woodward Township
Linden, Lycoming County

Motion Made: Board Member Isenhour

Chairman Holden asked if there was anyone in the listening audience representing 220 Eatery LLC who wished to be recognized. There was no response.

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Seconded: Board Member Vulakovich

Board Decision: Unanimously agreed (3-0 vote) to refuse the renewal.

- (2) **Adamovsky Liquid Assets, LLC** Renewal – Restaurant
R-17009 (LID No. 103323) Case No. 22-9165
11 North Sixth Street
P.O. Box 152
Indiana, Indiana County

Motion Made: Board Member Isenhour

Chairman Holden asked if there was anyone in the listening audience representing Adamovsky Liquid Assets, LLC who wished to be recognized. There was no response.

Seconded: Board Member Vulakovich

Board Decision: Unanimously agreed (3-0 vote) to refuse the renewal.

- (3) **Black River Farms, Inc.** Request to Sell Other Items on the
LK-488 (LID No. 72924) Licensed Premises – Limited Winery
2472 Black River Road
Lower Saucon Township
Bethlehem, Northampton County

Motion Made: Board Member Isenhour

Seconded: Board Member Vulakovich

Board Decision: Unanimously agreed (3-0 vote) to approve the request to sell other items on the licensed premises.

- (4) **Hog Fathers Old Fashioned BBQ of Canonsburg, LLC** Renewal – Restaurant
t/a Hog Fathers
R-6536 (LID No. 69190) Case No. 22-9157
113 Cavasina Drive
Canonsburg, Washington County

Motion Made: Board Member Isenhour

Chairman Holden asked if there was anyone in the listening audience representing Hog Fathers Old Fashioned BBQ of Canonsburg, LLC who wished to be recognized. There was no response.

Seconded: Board Member Vulakovich

Board Decision: Unanimously agreed (3-0 vote) to refuse the renewal.

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- (5) **Keabro, Ltd.** Renewal, Validation & Extension
t/a Lily's on Main of Safekeeping – Restaurant
R-11066 (LID No. 33100) Case No. 22-9167
124-128 East Main Street
P.O. Box 637
Ephrata, Lancaster County

Motion Made: Board Member Isenhour

Chairman Holden asked if there was anyone in the listening audience representing Keabro, Ltd. who wished to be recognized. There was no response.

Seconded: Board Member Vulakovich

Board Decision: Unanimously agreed (3-0 vote) to refuse the renewal.

- (6) **MRCH Southpointe, LLC** Renewal – Restaurant
t/a Cannon's Chophouse
R-9849 (LID No. 70811) Case No. 22-9110
1900 Main Street
Southpointe Town Center 1
Cecil Township
Canonsburg, Montgomery County

Motion Made: Board Member Isenhour

Chairman Holden asked if there was anyone in the listening audience representing MRCH Southpointe, LLC who wished to be recognized. There was no response.

Seconded: Board Member Vulakovich

Board Decision: Unanimously agreed (3-0 vote) to refuse the renewal.

- (7) **Old Mexico of Belle Vernon, Inc.** Renewal – Restaurant
t/a Old Mexico of Belle Vernon
R-14390 (LID No. 64977) Case No. 22-9156
124 Sara Way
Rostraver Square
Rostraver Township
Belle Vernon, Westmoreland County

Motion Made: Board Member Isenhour

Chairman Holden asked if there was anyone in the listening audience representing Old Mexico of Belle Vernon, Inc. who wished to be recognized. There was no response.

Seconded: Board Member Vulakovich

Board Decision: Unanimously agreed (3-0 vote) to refuse the renewal.

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- (8) **Old Mexico of Washington, Inc.** Renewal – Restaurant
t/a Old Mexico
R-9897 (LID No. 48275) Case No. 22-9162
125 Murtland Avenue
South Strabane Township
Washington, Washington County

Motion Made: Board Member Isenhour

Chairman Holden asked if there was anyone in the listening audience representing Old Mexico of Washington, Inc. who wished to be recognized. There was no response.

Seconded: Board Member Vulakovich

Board Decision: Unanimously agreed (3-0 vote) to refuse the renewal.

- (9) **RKJM Associates, LLC** Renewal – Restaurant
t/a Mulligan’s Irish Pub
R-2804 (LID No. 67248) Case No. 22-9136
Midtown Village
41 South Main Street
Building B
Wilkes Barre, Luzerne County

Motion Made: Board Member Isenhour

Chairman Holden asked if there was anyone in the listening audience representing RKJM Associates, LLC who wished to be recognized. There was no response.

Seconded: Board Member Vulakovich

Board Decision: Unanimously agreed (3-0 vote) to refuse the renewal.

- (10) **Siwel Systems, LLC** Renewal – Restaurant
t/a Eddie’s Tavern
R-9808 (LID No. 85061) Case No. 22-9164
200 Francis Street
South Union Township
Uniontown, Fayette County

Motion Made: Board Member Isenhour

Chairman Holden asked if there was anyone in the listening audience representing Siwel Systems, LLC who wished to be recognized. There was no response.

Seconded: Board Member Vulakovich

Board Decision: Unanimously agreed (3-0 vote) to refuse the renewal.

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- (14) **Ralph E. Moore Peggy Moore** Renewal – District 6
t/a Old Trails Café
R-2569 (LID No. 10578) Case No. 2022-10578
669 National Pike East
South Strabane Township
Washington, Washington County
- Motion Made:** Board Member Isenhour
Seconded: Board Member Vulakovich
- Board Decision:** Unanimously agreed (3-0 vote) to hold for a conditional licensing agreement and offer in compromise.
- (15) **Next Level Hospitality Corporation** Renewal – District 10
t/a Twisted Bar & Restaurant
R-5221 (LID No. 68612) Case No. 2020-68612 and
2022-68612
35 South 2nd Street
Philadelphia, Philadelphia County
- Motion Made:** Board Member Isenhour
Seconded: Board Member Vulakovich
- Board Decision:** Unanimously agreed (3-0 vote) to approve the renewal and refuse to renew the Amusement Permit.
- (16) **Rob’s Pub & Grub, LLC** Renewal – District 8
R-4198 (LID No. 80590) Case No. 2022-80590
232-234 Nesbitt Street
Plymouth
Larksville, Luzerne County
- Motion Made:** Board Member Isenhour
- Chairman Holden asked if there was anyone in the listening audience representing Rob’s Pub & Grub, LLC who wished to be recognized. There was no response.
- Seconded:** Board Member Vulakovich
- Board Decision:** Unanimously agreed (3-0 vote) to refuse the renewal.
- (17) **Smitty Corporation** Renewal – District 4
t/a Swamp Pike Pub
R-18350 (LID No. 56751) Case No 2022-56751
2532 Swamp Pike
New Hanover Township
Pottstown, Montgomery County
- Motion Made:** Board Member Isenhour
Seconded: Board Member Vulakovich

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Board Decision: Unanimously agreed (3-0 vote) to hold for a conditional licensing agreement and offer in compromise.

(18) Uptown Browns, Inc. Renewal – District 7
t/a Uptown Browns
R-11510 (LID No. 14996) Case No. 2021-14996
264 East 30th Street
Erie, Erie County

Motion Made: Board Member Isenhour
Seconded: Board Member Vulakovich

Board Decision: Unanimously agreed (3-0 vote) to hold for a conditional licensing agreement.

(19) Winston Hospitality, LLC Renewal – District 10
t/a The Winston
R-11539 (LID No. 102166) Case No. 2022-102166
461 North 3rd Street
Philadelphia, Philadelphia County

Motion Made: Board Member Isenhour
Seconded: Board Member Vulakovich

Board Decision: Unanimously agreed (3-0 vote) to approve the renewal.

*From the Bureau of Human Resources..... Jason Lutcavage, Director of Administration
Jennifer Haas, Director, Bureau of Human Resources*

Personnel Actions

There were 21 personnel actions presented for consideration.

- (1) Camisha Banks – Affirm Removal**
- (2) Brendan Canney – Suspension**
- (3) Tamirra Carlton – Removal**
- (4) Amirah Clark - Removal**
- (5) Ariana Dunworth - Removal**
- (6) Zakee Fleming – Removal**
- (7) James Gonser – Affirm Removal**
- (8) Gary Hall – Affirm Removal**
- (9) Julia Hall – Affirm Removal**

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- (10) **Tishaya Harris – Affirm Removal**
- (11) **Stephanie Horn – Affirm Removal**
- (12) **Brandy Messier – Affirm Removal**
- (13) **Brad Micale - Removal**
- (14) **Daniel Mooney – Removal**
- (15) **Brian Muck - Removal**
- (16) **Byshira Muhammad – Affirm Removal**
- (17) **Andrea Pickney – Affirm Removal**
- (18) **Gavin Pryce – Affirm Removal**
- (19) **Barbara Stead – Removal**
- (20) **Dawn Straughters – Affirm Removal**
- (21) **Aleeya Wallace – Affirm Removal**

Motion Made: Board Member Isenhour
Seconded: Board Member Vulakovich

Board Decision: Unanimously agreed (3-0 vote) to approve the recommendations from the Bureau of Human Resources.

*From the Bureau of Accounting & PurchasingMichael Demko, Executive Director
Elizabeth Brassell, Deputy Executive Director
Ijeoma Ezekoye, Director, Bureau of Financial Management & Analysis*

Procurement Actions:

(1) **Technical Architecture Specialist Staff Augmentation** – This purchase request is for support to continue our New Horizons Cloud migrations in upcoming releases and provide post go-live support for all Oracle ERP Cloud applications, databases, and integrations. This resource also provides performance improvement and problem solving for the autonomous databases, OIC integrations, and Cloud WebLogic installation, configuration, and security patching.

Procured via DGS Contract #4400024749 – VENDOR: **OST, Inc.** – TERM: 9/22/2023 through 12/31/2023 - **\$63,485.84 estimated cost.**

(2) **ORBO/ORCO Programmer Analyst Staff Augmentation** – This resource is used for advanced troubleshooting of the ORPOS system, related databases, processes and as a subject matter expert needed to support the legacy system.

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Procured via DGS Contract #4400024749 – VENDOR: **OST, Inc.** – TERM: 8/18/2023 through 6/30/24 - **\$244,745.60 estimated cost.**

(3) ORBO/ORCO Retail Oracle Database Administration Staff Augmentation – This resource is used for java programming in the ORPOS system, advanced troubleshooting of the ORPOS system, related databases, processes and as a subject matter expert needed to support the legacy system.

Procured via DGS Contract #4400024749 – VENDOR: **OST, Inc.** – TERM: 8/18/2023 through 6/30/24 - **\$278,678.40 estimated cost.**

Inter-Agency Charges:

(1) Department of Auditor General – FY 2022-23 fourth quarter billing of \$783,065.38 from the Department of the Auditor General. The charge for FY 2022-23 Q4 services are \$12,521.25 (+1.6%) more than last year’s Q4 estimated billing. The total FY 2022-23 billings are \$3.34 million or \$576 thousand (+20.9%) more than last year, primarily due to a higher audit rate (+12%) and a higher audit costs (+8%).

The Bureau of Financial Management and Analysis has reviewed these charges and determined that they are reasonable based on billing methodology and previous experience.

Motion Made: Board Member Isenhour
Seconded: Board Member Vulakovich

Board Decision: Unanimously agreed (3-0 vote) to approve the recommendations from the Bureau of Accounting and Purchasing.

From the Office of Retail Operations.....Michael Demko, Executive Director

**(1) #3914 – Mountainville Plaza, 1620 South Fourth Street, Allentown
Amendment**

**(2) #0602 – 1100 Rockland Plaza, Reading
Exercise Option**

**(3) #4304 – 535 Greenville Road, Mercer
Exercise Option**

Motion Made: Board Member Isenhour
Seconded: Board Member Vulakovich

Board Decision: Unanimously agreed (3-0 vote) to approve the recommendations from the Office of Retail Operations.

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From the Bureau of Product Selection Tom Bowman, Director of Product Selection

<u>VENDOR – ITEM NAME</u>	<u>BOARD ACTION REQUESTED</u>
Various	1. Regular New Items Accepted
Various	2. Regular Recommended Delist

1. Regular New Items Accepted

<u>BRAND NAME AND SIZE</u>	<u>REASON</u>
<u>Diageo Americas Inc</u>	
Casamigos Tequila Blanco 1 L	18
<u>The Wine Merchant LTD</u>	
Acinum Prosecco Extra Dry 750 mL	18
Arona Sauvignon Blanc 750 mL	18
Avia Pinot Grigio 1.5 L	18
Avia Pinot Grigio 750 mL	18
Canyon Oaks Cabernet Sauvignon 1.5 L	18
Canyon Oaks Cabernet Sauvignon 750 mL	18
Canyon Oaks Chardonnay 1.5 L	18
DAOU Special Select Cabernet Sauvignon 750 mL	18
Montefresco Pinot Grigio Dell Venezia 750 mL	18
Oak Grove Pinot Noir 750 mL	18
Simonet Vin Mousseux Blanc De Blanc Sparkling Wine 750 mL	18
Stanford Brut Governor’s Cuvee Sparkling Wine 750 mL	18

RECOMMENDED ACTION: We recommend the Board approve this action

2. Regular Recommended Delist

<u>BRAND NAME AND SIZE</u>	<u>CODE</u>
<u>Majestic W S</u>	
Rancho La Gloria AgaVida Green Apple 750 mL	96214
Rancho La Gloria AgaVida Mango 750 mL	96215
Rancho La Gloria AgaVida Peach 750 mL	96216
Rancho La Gloria AgaVida Strawberry 750 mL	96217
<u>Triple Nickel Distillery</u>	
Triple Nickel Distillery Blackberry Moonshine 750 mL	98414
Triple Nickel Distillery Diamond Grape Moonshine 750 mL	98415

EFFECTIVE DATE: The transference to closeout will become effective September 8, 2023

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Motion Made: Board Member Isenhour
Seconded: Board Member Vulakovich

Board Decision: Unanimously agreed (3-0 vote) to approve the recommendations from the Bureau of Product Selection.

FINANCIAL REPORT *Michael J. Burns, Comptroller Operations, Office of Budget*

None

OTHER ISSUES

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were offered.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the PLCB will be a formal meeting on Wednesday, August 30, 2023 beginning at 11:00 A.M. Prior to the public meeting, an Executive Session or Sessions will be held for the specific purposes as regularly set forth in the printed Board Agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Board Member Isenhour, seconded by Board Member Vulakovich, the meeting was adjourned.

Chairman

Member

Member

ATTEST:

Secretary

Mr. Logan's statement is attached:

(Thank you. I apologize for not appearing in person today. With the Board's permission, I am going to read my comments, prepared in advance, which I timed at just over 5 minutes.)

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board,

My name is John Logan. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment today. I am a resident of Philadelphia county, a small business owner, sole proprietor of Rectified Spirits LLC, a Pennsylvania company, and, as of May 2022, operating under Pennsylvania Limited Distiller License No. AL50315. As of this past April, just four short months ago, I am also a grateful and enthusiastic participant in the PA Preferred Program, of which you are undoubtedly aware. PA Preferred is the path offered by PLCB, affording small businesses, such as myself, the opportunity, once approved, to offer our Pennsylvania-made products for sale on the shelves at select Fine Wine & Good Spirits stores. In addition, the program prescribes procedures for direct-to-store delivery, a vital component for small businesses and limited distillers, such as myself, whose production capacity and available resources currently preclude us from delivering large order quantities to the Distribution Centers.

I chose to speak today to express my enthusiasm and gratitude for the PA Preferred program, as well as to plea for your support of the program in light of current challenges introduced by the ongoing Oracle ERP implementation. If you remember just one thing that I say here today, please let it be that I am a huge advocate for PA Preferred. By offering small Pennsylvania-owned businesses the opportunity to compete on the shelves with large, multinational liquor conglomerates in a demanding, specialized and highly regulated industry, PA Preferred is a shining example of the Pennsylvania legislature implementing a program intended to benefit residents of the state. PA Preferred and the staff who administer the program are to be commended. In my experience, that staff includes Dominic Civitano and Logan Kennedy in the Bureau of Product Selection, along with Procurement Specialist Michael Dugan with whom I worked most closely from April through June, and, of course, the general managers and staff in the PA Wine & Spirits stores themselves, who always greet me with courtesy and a smile when I deliver to the stores. I am grateful to all of them, and to you, the Board, for offering the PA Preferred Program. From April through June, PLCB and I functioned as a team, a team who were working together to successfully launch a Pennsylvania-made brand from the ground up. I will not use this forum to promote my brand or even to speak it out loud, but I encourage you to look at our performance since April, particularly in Store 5185 in Philadelphia, a top performing store in the state. The numbers tell a story, and that story is that we are, without a doubt, a

paradigm case for the kind of opportunity the PA Preferred program is intended to offer. And I appear here today, in part, simply to thank all of you. PA Preferred is a resounding success! And I am grateful for the opportunity.

So I ask you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the Board, to please speak to the operations team responsible for the ongoing ERP implementation about the fact that I, and other participants in the PA Preferred program, have been excluded from procurement activities for 8 weeks now. We have had to watch helplessly as our inventory depleted from the shelves with no purchase orders forthcoming to replenish the stock. All of the momentum we built April through June has been squandered needlessly, due simply to a prolonged software implementation effort and a failure to prioritize the PA Preferred program for small Pennsylvania-owned businesses. Being prohibited from restocking the shelves is a concern, but even more concerning has been lack of answers regarding why we have been excluded from procurement activity, when activity will resume, and who will be responsible for issuing purchase orders moving forward.

I understand that the Board may not be aware of the devastating impact that the current ERP migration is having on small Pennsylvania-owned businesses, such as myself. Our program and the direct-to-store delivery option appear to have been forsaken by the operations team and by the Oracle consultants under their direction. I also understand that Limited Distillers participating in PA Preferred make up only a fraction of a percent of the hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue which PLCB oversees. Therefore, one might conclude that it is reasonable to prioritize small businesses last. But please understand that Brown-Forman and Beam-Suntory and E&J Gallo will all be fine after these ERP-related delays and the resulting procedural gaps, while my small business and other small Pennsylvania-owned businesses are being devastated by the unnecessary restriction of procurement activity. While the ERP migration is understandably a large undertaking and while our exclusion from procurement activity may be an unintended consequence of this undertaking, it is nonetheless crippling.

PA Preferred is a success. Moreover, it is vital, especially for small Pennsylvania-owned businesses, as well as for consumers in search of quality, variety, value, and local branding.

I look forward to resuming activities as soon as this week with your support. Thank you.