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STATE LIQUOR AUTHORITY  
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**SLA CHAIRMAN CALLS FOR OVERHAUL OF THE ABC LAW**

**Testifying before Senate Committee, Rosen says “The time to overhaul this statute and fix this agency is now.”**

*Albany, NY* – State Liquor Authority Chairman Dennis Rosen testified today before the New York State Senate Standing Committee on Investigations and Government Operations on the recommendations of the New York State Law Revision Commission’s (LRC) report on the ABC Law and its administration. Rosen expressed his support for a total overhaul of the 76 year-old statute governing the manufacture, sale and distribution of alcohol in New York State.

“We cannot ask businesses to continue to operate in the 21st Century with an archaic statute passed in 1934 coming out of Prohibition,” Chairman Rosen said. “I believe the legislature has a great opportunity this session, to overhaul this anachronistic law and help us fix this agency.”

Following an exhaustive two year study, the LRC issued a report on December 14, 2009 calling for major modifications to the ABC Law as well as changes to the way the agency is administered. The report noted, however, that the “substantial and significant progress” made under Chairman Rosen’s tenure was “remarkable.” In August 2009, the SLA faced a backlog of over 3,000 pending applications. Today that number has been slashed to 1,700, a 57% decrease.

“I can report today that the backlog that has for years plagued this agency and burdened businesses has been eliminated in Upstate New York,” said Rosen, adding, “we will eliminate the remainder of the backlog by October.”

Arriving at the agency seven months ago, Rosen found an agency shackled with an outdated law and lacking the power to promulgate regulations that provide flexibility to the petrified statute. Consequently, the agency that spent too many agency resources, too many agency man hours, and too much of the Full Board’s time deliberating and debating about what the 76 year old statute may or may not allow. Rosen noted, “Too often the statute forces us say no to business owners. No you can’t open a liquor store if it isn’t precisely level with the street. No your restaurant can’t serve alcohol on the

patio if it isn't contiguous with the building. No your convenience store can't stock items that might be convenient to your customers unless 50% or more of those items are food."

Noting that the LRC has provided the SLA and the Legislature with a blueprint for moving forward, Chairman Rosen asked that the Legislature seize the momentum created by Report and the recent success at the SLA. Rosen requested the Legislature, in addition to overhauling the entire statute, provide the SLA with general rule making authority as well as providing the Chairman with sole administrative authority. "The time to overhaul this statute and fix this agency is now, Rosen said."

Chairman Rosen's complete testimony may be read in its entirety at our website:  
[www.abc.state.ny.us](http://www.abc.state.ny.us)

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