



July 3, 2026

Welcome to your **ABL Friday Happy Hour** ... 533 words ... 2-3 minutes. Here's the latest on legislative developments, litigation, and other news affecting beverage alcohol retailers.

1. Happy 250th, America!

As America celebrates its 250th birthday this Independence Day weekend, we want to thank ABL members for the role you play in communities across the country. From family-owned package stores and neighborhood taverns to local restaurants and bars, independent beverage alcohol retailers have long reflected the entrepreneurial, social and welcoming spirit that has helped define our nation.

- **Why it matters:** The values that have sustained America's small businesses for 250 years – hard work, personal responsibility, service to community, and the freedom to build something of your own – are the same values ABL members demonstrate every day. As we celebrate our nation's semiquincentennial, thank you for everything you do to strengthen your communities and our industry. Happy Independence Day from everyone at ABL!

2. ABL Op/Ed Discusses Costly Alcohol Shipping Litigation

In an [opinion piece](#) that ran today in the Washington Examiner, ABL Executive Director John Bodnovich marking the seventh anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision in *Tennessee Wine & Spirits Retailers Association v. Thomas*. The piece argues that while courts have repeatedly upheld states' authority to regulate alcohol under the Twenty-first Amendment, taxpayers continue to bear the cost of defending repetitive constitutional challenges to state alcohol shipping laws. [Read the op-ed](#)

- **Why it matters:** Since *Tennessee Wine* was decided in 2019, courts across the country have consistently rejected efforts to use that decision to dismantle state alcohol regulatory systems. ABL continues advocating for an end to costly, duplicative litigation and for respect for states' longstanding authority to regulate alcohol in the public interest.
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3. Supreme Court Gives Presidents More Control Over Federal Agencies

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision this week in [*Trump v. Slaughter*](#) held that the President has broader authority to remove leaders of certain independent federal agencies, giving the current and future administrations greater control over the direction and priorities of agencies traditionally insulated from political change. Historically, independent agencies have historically provided a measure of regulatory stability across administrations. Future administrations may be able to move more quickly to install leadership aligned with their regulatory agenda, resulting in faster shifts in enforcement priorities and rulemaking.

- **Why it matters:** The ruling could reshape how federal agencies like the FTC and NLRB operate, making it easier for administrations to quickly shift regulatory priorities. That creates greater opportunities when federal leadership aligns with ABL's priorities on competition, small business, and sensible regulation—but also greater challenges when it does not. The result is likely to be a more dynamic, but less predictable, regulatory environment for beverage alcohol retailers.

4. New Federal Laws Took Effect July 1; Alcohol Policy Unaffected

A handful of federal laws and regulatory changes took effect on July 1, including provisions affecting transportation, taxes, and appropriations implementation. While none directly reshape beverage alcohol retailing, ABL reviewed the changes for potential member impacts.

- **Why it matters:** One of ABL's core responsibilities is monitoring Washington so members don't have to. Even when new federal laws don't directly affect retailers, we review each development to identify potential downstream impacts on the industry.