

EXCLUSIVE: Local State Assemblyman Sponsors Bill To Benefit Himself!
By Mark Belling, WISN-AM

Rep. Dan Knodl, a Republican member of the state assembly, is the principal sponsor of a bill to extend the amount of time tavern owners can take to pay back their liquor purchases. Knodl himself is a tavern owner.

Knodl owns Reef Point Resort in Hartford. The proposed legislation would directly benefit him. Knodl is unapologetic about it, saying as a tavern owner he has strong knowledge of issues affecting his industry and will use his position to advance bills and ideas he believes in

Wisconsin law currently limits the amount of time restaurant and bar owners can take to pay liquor bills on credit to 15 days. Knodl's bill would extend it to 30 days. The legislation may be a good idea and hardly seems earth-shaking but it is undeniable that the only beneficiaries are bar and restaurant owners, of which Knodl is one.

Tavern owners in Wisconsin have long chafed about the power of the cabal of beer distributors in Wisconsin and Knodl's bill seems to be on the behalf of the little guys (the bar owners) at the expense of the big guys (the beer distributors). The beer distributors' lobbyist is Eric Petersen, by far the most powerful behind the scenes figure in state government.

It appears to be a blatant conflict of interest and an example of a lawmaker using his position to directly benefit the business he is involved in. On the other hand, the influence the beer distributors and Eric Petersen have over other members of the legislature may be a far more profound problem

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