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Customer Service Center
Larry Meyer
Safeway Inc. - M/S 10501
P.O. Box 29093
Phoenix, AZ 85038-9093

Re: Rejection of US Passport Card for Alcohol Purchase

Dear sir:

I heartily appreciate your taking the time to respond to my first request for policy change with regard to use of the US Passport Card as a form of identification for the purposes of age-restricted purchases. I do, however, find a major inconsistency with regard to your reply.

The document you are apparently quoting in your reply is an out-of-date directive from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (hereinafter “ABC”). The section that is referred to by ABC, namely California Business And Professions Code Section 25660, explicitly states that “Bona fide evidence of majority and identity” includes “a valid passport issued by the United States or by a foreign government.” This is, admittedly, a fairly recent change in the law—on further research, Assembly Bill 1191, Ch 142 was enacted only in August of 2009. The ABC itself has since published guidance regarding this very subject in December of last year.¹

I fully understand that Safeway and its employees must protect themselves from undue liability. There is, however, no *de legis* liability here—use of a passport as identification **for the purchase of alcohol** is **explicitly allowed** by California State law. Since the US Passport Card carries exactly the same force for identification purposes as a conventional passport, there is no reason not to accept it as ID.

In the interests of making Safeway's decision easier, I will be sending a request to the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to update their documentation. This is, as you may recall, in addition to the confirmation I already received from the Secretary of State's office. I urge Safeway to reconsider—the California legislature recognized that accepting Passports would improve travel-related tax revenues to the State. I would hate to see the State Assembly's work go to waste.

¹ “Documentary Evidence of Age and Identity (12/09)”: http://www.abc.ca.gov/trade/Industry%20Advisory%20re%2025660%20amendments_2009_12-16-09.pdf

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

William J. Black

Attachments: All correspondence to date for your reference.

P.S. As mentioned in my last letter, I am not an attorney by trade and this document should not be construed as professional legal advice.