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**(Neb)-Attorney For Whiteclay Beer Stores Expects Appeal To Win, Blasts Governor**



By: John Axtell Posted at: 04/20/2017 01:06 PM

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - The attorney for the 4 Whiteclay beer stores who had their liquor licenses denied yesterday by the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission says they will appeal and he is confident the appeal will be successful.

Andrew Snyder of Scottsbluff says that based on his study of previous Nebraska Supreme Court rulings, the commissioner acted under the wrong statute - using the one for new applications rather than the one for renewing existing licenses.

Snyder plans to ask the Lancaster County District Court for a stay of the denial so beer sales can continue until the appeal is decided.

Snyder believes the liquor commission acted in part because Governor Pete Ricketts pressured the three members of the panel Ricketts denies Snyder's accusations and says the liquor commissioners acted entirely on their own and within their authority.

Snyder also says the Whiteclay stores have been the targets of additional audits and inspections recently by various state agencies, including the liquor commission and attorney general's office - again because of pressure from Ricketts. It's another charge the governor dismisses.

Supporters of the Whiteclay stores say closing them won't end the alcohol problems on the Pine Ridge Reservation because buyers and bootleggers will just go to other communities such as Rushville or Chadron, increasing the chances of fatal drunk-driving accidents.