

Testimony Re:

HB: 5276 – An Act Concerning Connecticut Based Microbreweries

Good morning Chairman Colapietro, Chairman Shapiro and members of the General Law Committee. For the record, I am State Representative Diana Urban, representing the 43rd district. I am here today to testify on HB 5395 An Act Concerning Connecticut Based Microbreweries.

My purpose in supporting this bill is to promote Connecticut based businesses. We have focused on our wineries and vineyards and I would like to turn that same focus on our Connecticut based breweries. I think we need to more fully recognize and support small businesses involved exclusively in Connecticut Grown or Connecticut Produced Goods and Services. By keeping dollars circulating in our own communities we can create small, tight economic webs that promote small business based economic development.

This bill actually looks at the distribution process and attempts to make it easier to change distributors. I would certainly support a relationship that is mutually beneficial. For that reason I would recommend the period of time before the relationship becomes set in stone and requires a complex process to sever the relationship, be extended from 6 months to 12 months. It seems that a 12 month period would give ample time for both parties to ascertain whether the relationship is mutually beneficial.

I would also like to explore the possibility of eliminating the excise tax for Connecticut beer and any other creative way to encourage Connecticut based products. Small businesses are our major jobs driver and the more we can do to support them the stronger and more resilient our economy will be.

Thank you.