

February 25, 2010

Re: Bill no. 5231 An act concerning the sale of Connecticut Wine at Farmers' Markets

The Hopkins Vineyard is celebrating its 31st anniversary this year, producing Estate Grown Wines. Our farm is one of very few Centennial Farms left in Connecticut. Continuously owned and operated by the Hopkins family for 223 years. The ability for us to sell our wine at farmers markets would increase our sales and exposure. Not only would it create more awareness that Connecticut is producing award winning wines and preserving land for farming as opposed to housing development but also give us more options to sell our wine in this difficult market. It would also bring employment, as we would likely be hiring staff to sell at the markets. We grow a CT product why shouldn't we be able to participate in farmer's markets like all the other farm grown products in CT? The sale of wine at Connecticut farmers markets is a perfect fit. There are currently a number of States that allow the sale of wine at farmers markets. Please support Bill no. 5231.

Sincerely,

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