February 8, 2011

WINE INSTITUTE STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF HB 6264"AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE SALE OR DISPENSING OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR ON SUNDAY."

Wine Institute, an association of over 1,100 California wineries and affiliated suppliers dedicated to advocating the responsible consumption and enjoyment of wine, would like to lend its strong support to the passage of HB 6264 "An Act Authorizing the Sale or Dispensing of Alcoholic Liquor on Sunday."

Over forty states currently allow some form of off-premise Sunday sales of alcoholic beverages, including the neighboring states of New York, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. In addition, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont all allow Sunday sales and have done so for many years. Connecticut is one of only a handful of states to have a total prohibition of off-premise alcoholic beverage sales on Sunday. (Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Minnesota, Indiana, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Utah also have a total prohibition).

Connecticut consumers will benefit if Sunday sales of alcoholic beverages is enacted. They will have increased shopping flexibility and will be able to buy wine on Sundays while they are out and about shopping for other consumer products in Connecticut. They will no longer have to drive across the state border to buy a bottle of wine for dinner or a six pack for the game. More Connecticut consumers shopping in Connecticut will no doubt mean more tax revenue for Connecticut!

Wine Institute respectfully urges the Joint Committee on General Law to recommend passage of HB 6264.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Carol A Martel
Northeastern Counsel
Wine Institute