



**Connecticut Restaurant Association Testimony
Before the General Law Committee
February 8, 2011**

**SB 458 An Act Concerning Municipal Police Departments and Alcoholic Liquor Permits
and
HB 5739 An Act Concerning Municipal Approval of Alcoholic Liquor Permits**

The Connecticut Restaurant Association represents over 600 restaurants and hospitality industry businesses across Connecticut. We support government initiatives that help create a strong business climate, create new jobs, promote a vibrant state economy, and restrict government interference in the daily conduct of our businesses. We believe that lower taxes, pro-business legislation and reasonable regulations support our businesses' ability to prosper and make Connecticut more desirable for future business growth.

SB 458 and HB 5739 would expand the role of municipal police in the liquor permitting process. Currently, municipal police only approve temporary liquor permits. The process by which restaurants obtain a renewal of their liquor permit requires detailed information, including providing financial statements, indicating whether they or their backer have been convicted of any crimes, compliance with state and local building, fire and zoning requirements, and a public notice of the type of liquor permit. While the standards for permit approval are high, we recognize that specific problems may arise with applicants and that current law does not allow local police to make recommendations during the renewal process.

The Connecticut Restaurant Association stands willing to work with the General Law Committee and the sponsors of these bills as you draft language to ensure the process for liquor permit renewals maintains the highest standards.

Thank you for your consideration.