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General Law Committee
Tuesday February 28, 2012

Testimony in Support of Governor's Bill 5021 – Section 4

Good morning Chairmen Doyle and Taborsak, Ranking Members Witkos and Rebimbas,

I am Kevin Kelly of the 21st district, representing the towns of Stratford, Shelton, Monroe and Seymour.

In my hometown of Stratford we are getting ready to welcome Two Roads Brewing Company into our town. Two Roads is a recently formed Connecticut company that intends to produce high quality craft beers to participate in the rapidly growing craft beer segment of the United States beer industry. We are extremely excited about their investment, and looking forward to the creation of 70 jobs in our community.

I am here today to testify in support of specifically section four of HB 5021.
Section four would directly affect the Two Roads Brewing Companies growth.

There is no single permit in Connecticut law, or even a combination of permits that can be issued to Two Roads which would allow them to sell their craft beer to wholesalers, produce beer brewed under contract and sell it back to brewery clients in and out of state, offer visitor tours with a sample of their product, sell a glass of beer to visitors to enjoy, or sell beer by the package to customers to share at home.

Supporting this aspect of the Governor's bill will enable microbreweries such as Two Roads, to enjoy the same benefits we accord to wineries. It will allow them to give tours of the facility, tastes of their product and the sale of sealed containers to be taken home.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Kevin C. Kelly
21st District