

Testimony of George Motel  
Sunset Meadow Vineyard Goshen, CT  
**SB 59 AN ACT CONCERNING RETAIL WINE SELLERS AND WINE-RELATED  
CLASSES.**

Good morning Senator Doyle, Representative Taborsak and members of the General Law Committee, my name is George Motel and I am the owner of Sunset Meadow Vineyard in Goshen, CT as well as the Vice President of the CT Vineyard and Winery Association. My farm consists of 50 acres. 32 are currently planted to Wine Grapes.

I have concerns regarding SB 59 Concerning Retail Wine Sellers and Wine Related Classes. Over the past decade, CT Wineries have worked hard to make our businesses unique. We offer a variety of services including tastings and other events that bring people to our charming, but in some cases remote properties. We have made a great investment to set ourselves apart from other alcohol vendors and become a destination and a brand.

Our businesses are different than other alcohol manufacturers because we are farms. We are truly rooted to our properties, growing our own grapes and manufacturing our wine on premises. It is a difficult business that requires an immense amount of up front capital before reaping revenue. We are also subject to weather and other forces of nature that make it more difficult to operate.

Any offering, no matter how small, make a big difference to us. Customers travel to our properties to enjoy these services in part because we are the only ones who offer it. We have concerns that this may not be the case if everyone was allowed to do the same.

Unlike Wineries in most wine regions across the Country, our wines cannot be purchased in Grocery Stores. In addition, the proposed changes to the liquor laws take away our exclusivity on Holidays and Sundays. Therefore the few Niches we have left are precious to us.

We respectfully ask you to oppose SB 59. Thank you for your time and consideration.