

## HB 5021

# AAC Competitive Alcoholic Liquor Pricing and Hours of Operation For Permittees

February 28, 2012

Chairman Doyle, Chairman Taborsak, Ranking Members Witkos and Rebimbas, my name is Mayor John Harkins from the town of Stratford and I am here today to speak in favor of "Section 4" of HB 5021.

The Two Roads Brewing Company intends to invest \$18 million to construct a brewery in Connecticut where it intends on manufacturing craft beer. Within the first year of operation they will employ fifteen people adding up to approximately seventy jobs within eight years. Two Roads Brewing projects about 200-300 people per week will visit the brewery that will create a new flow of tourism to the area.

In order for Two Roads Brewery to effectively implement their business plan they are seeking a legislative change to existing state statutes. Because of the larger scale of the Two Roads Brewery, and the amount of investment involved, it is critical that Two Roads Brewing be able to grow quickly by launching several beer brands for sale within Connecticut and for interstate commerce and to build a loyal consumer base from patrons visiting the brewery's tasting room as part of a unique brewery experience.

The legislative issue facing Two Roads Brewing is that currently there is no single permit, or even a combination of permits that can be issued to Two Roads Brewing by the Connecticut Division of Liquor Control that would allow Two Roads to fully pursue its business plan of; selling its craft beer brands to wholesalers located in Connecticut and elsewhere, producing beer brewed under contract and selling it back to brewery clients both in-state and out of state, offering visitors tours of the brewery along with a fresh sample of product, selling a glass of craft beer to patrons to enjoy while in a brewery atmosphere, and selling beer by the package to customers to share and enjoy at home with family and friends.

The legislative change in "Section 4" of HB 5021 would enable a brewery such as Two Roads brewing Company to operate as a fully functioning brewery with the privileges to; make commercial sales to wholesalers both in state and out of state, sell craft beer produced under contract and place it into interstate commerce, engage consumers interested in the craft brewing industry with tours of the brewery along with providing fresh samples of the product, and make commercial sales to visitors for consumption on or away from the brewery.

Passage of this bill would allow a commercial brewery more opportunities for success similar to that of our state wineries. This change in legislation is a welcoming sign for one of Connecticut's new manufacturers particularly given the current poor state of our economy.