State of Connecticut
HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONN. 06106

Testimony by Representatives
Laura Hoydick and Larry Miller
Before the General Law Committee
On Section 4 of House Bill 5021
February 28, 2012

Good Chairmen Doyle and Taborsak, Ranking Members Witkos and Rebimbas, and members of the General Law Committee. For the record the testimony this morning is being presented from both Representative Larry Miller and Representative Hoydick representing the 122nd and 120th Districts respectively. We offer testimony today in support of Section 4 of HB 5021, AN ACT CONCERNING COMPETITIVE ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR PRICING AND HOURS OF OPERATION FOR PERMITTEES.

Section 4 of the bill states "A manufacturer permit for beer and brew pub shall be in all respects the same as a manufacturer permit for beer as defined in subsection (b) of this section and shall allow those additional permissible uses specified in the manufacturer permit for a brew pub as defined in subsection (f) of this section, provided the holder of a manufacturer permit for beer and brew pub produces at least five thousand gallons of beer on the premises annually." This is a significant change that we support. This portion of the bill creates a new manufacturer for beer and brewpub permit that combine the permissible uses of the separate permits. The manufacturer for beer and brewpub permit gives the permittee the combined rights and abilities if he or she annually produces at least 5,000 gallons of beer. Generally, this means a manufacturer for beer and brewpub permittee can manufacture, bottle, store, wholesale distribute, and sell beer in the state and he or she may also offer beer for retail sale for on-premise consumption with or without food.

Stratford currently has a start-up brewery called Two Roads Brewing Company. With assistance from the State of Connecticut they wish to open a brewery in Stratford. This company will transform an old, idle manufacturing building into a state-of-the-art brewing facility that will employ 70 people within 8 years. They will not be a brewpub with a restaurant; they will be making beer for sale at retail and will also have a tasting room for consumer trial and for take home purchases. Section 4 of HB 5021 will provide to them ability to sell beer by the glass from their tasting room, and to sell 9 liters of packaged beer rather than the current limit of 8 for take home consumption.

This section will give Connecticut companies such as Two Roads Brewing Company, and many other Connecticut businesses, the ability to compete against out of state breweries. We feel this section makes good business sense, support Connecticut companies, and overall will allow this segment of industry to grow and market Connecticut beers for Connecticut consumers.

We again would like to extend our support of Section 4 of HB 5021. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rep. Laura Hoydick

Rep. Larry Miller