



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

**REPRESENTATIVE DAN CARTER**  
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**MEMBER**  
BANKS COMMITTEE  
ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

**FROM:** Representative Dan Carter, 2nd Assembly District

**DATE:** February 28, 2012

**Re: H.B. No. 5055 (RAISED) AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE RETAIL SALE OF SEALED BOTTLES OR CONTAINERS OF BEER BY BREW PUBS ON SUNDAY**

I would like to thank the Honorable Co-Chairs Senator Paul Doyle and Representative Joseph Taborsak, the Honorable Vice Chairs Senator Carlo Leone and Representative David Baram, and the Ranking Members Senator Kevin Witkos and Representative Rosa Rebimbas, and the entire membership of the General Law Committee for their time this morning addressing this issue.

While Connecticut has made great strides in creating an environment where Connecticut brewers can expand their businesses, and I am generally supporting H.B. 5055, the legislation could be expanded to help brew pubs and other businesses which specialize in craft beers by allowing other pubs and restaurants to sell draft beer in sealed containers.

The craft beer industry is growing across the nation and we have an opportunity to lead the way. The craft brewers provide an estimated 100,000 jobs in the U.S. While overall beer sales declined in 2009 and 2010, craft brew sales climbed 15% in 2011. Providing greater access to the market for these small businesses can help them continue their growth, as well as provide a benefit to other local businesses who sell craft beer.

In addition to the brew pubs, throughout the state we have many small taverns, pubs, and ale houses that specialize in marketing craft beer. Even with the burdens the state places on the industry, such as the exorbitant label fee of \$1000 per label, these businesses are staying afloat. In towns along the boarder, however, there are many customers who travel across the boarder for better selection and the ability to by draft beer to bring home.

I urge the committee to consider allowing other restaurants and pubs the ability to sell beer in sealed containers on Sunday, and even expand the ability for sales throughout the week. The sales should be limited to draft beer in 1 liter and 2 liter bottles. In addition, the committee could also consider allowing the package stores opportunities to compete in the same market by allowing them to sell draft beer in sealed containers as well.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dan Carter", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dan Carter  
State Representative, 2<sup>nd</sup> District