



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**REPRESENTATIVE PHILIP MILLER**  
THIRTY SIXTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4037  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: 860-240-8500  
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-8267  
E-MAIL: Philip.Miller@cga.ct.gov

**MEMBER**  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

To: General Law Committee  
From: Representative Philip Miller, 36th district  
Re: HB 5058

Senators Doyle and Leone and Representatives Taborsak and Baram,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on HB 5058, an Act Concerning First Selectmen and Liquor Permits.

As you know, this law was passed in 1933, upon the repeal of Federal Prohibition, and perhaps amidst a fear that chief elected officials would somehow exert undue influence if they also owned a liquor license. It was curiously limited to First Selectmen, not including other elected officials.

This law currently would prohibit the holder of a liquor license to run for the First Selectman position, the chief elected official of a number of Connecticut municipalities.

I'm here because I feel that this prohibition is an unnecessary hardship to a very fine public servant in particular, my friend, the Honorable Paul Formica, First Selectman of East Lyme. Paul and his wife, Donna, founded and built the Flanders Fish house into a very well regarded restaurant, known for terrific food and hospitality of the highest distinction. When Paul first ran for East Lyme First Selectman, he and Donna transferred the license to Donna's name. Donna unexpectedly passed away in late 2009 and so the license has been held up in probate court.

I would further ask that you treat this as a separate bill, unrelated to the general liquor bill this session. And for whatever it is worth, I'd like you to know that the individual we are speaking of is an accomplished and very well respected First Selectman and I know this from my own previous position as a peer four term First Selectman.

Thank you for your consideration.