



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE TERRIE WOOD  
ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIRST DISTRICT

50 ST. NICHOLAS ROAD  
DARIEN, CT 06820  
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700  
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-1423  
EMAIL: [Terrie.Wood@housegop.ct.gov](mailto:Terrie.Wood@housegop.ct.gov)

RANKING MEMBER  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

MEMBER  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

### **Testimony** **In Support of H.B. No. 5058** ***An Act Concerning First Selectmen and Alcoholic*** ***Liquor Permits***

***General Law Committee***

***February 28, 2012***

Dear Senator Doyle, Representative Taborsak, Senator Witkos, Representative Rebimbas and members of the General Law Committee:

My name is Terrie Wood and I represent Norwalk and Darien, in the 141st district. I am in strong support of HB 5058 An Act Concerning First Selectman and Alcoholic Liquor Permits which would remove the prohibition against first selectmen holding permits for the sale of alcoholic liquor.

This statute was signed into law in 1933 and the reasons behind the law are not known. It was post prohibition but that is all we know. The law is not consistent and only applies to first selectmen, not mayors, state representatives or senators or even governors. It is well known that while Governor, William O'Neill owned a tavern and held that tavern's liquor license.

Tom Condon wrote a well received Op-Ed on this statute in the Courant on January 27th advocating repeal. Jenna Cho also covered this in her Op-Ed in The Day on February 12th, strongly advocating repeal.

There is a specific reason many of us are in support of repealing this prohibition this session. Paul Formica, who owns Flanders Fish Market in East Lyme, transferred his 50 % liquor permit to his wife Donna in order to run and serve as first selectman in East Lyme in 2007. His wife died unexpectedly in December 2009. The liquor license is now just about to come out of the probate court with no one to hold the permit. Flanders Fish Market is his family business and his livelihood

Page 2

Additionally this law conceivably is an impediment to folks running for office. It is hard enough to get people to step forward to run, let's not keep an antiquated law from allowing good people to serve. There are many ways the Liquor Control Board and the local police can protect the permittee from investigating him or herself in the event of alleged wrongdoing.

For a number of good reasons, repealing this prohibition of first selectmen holding a liquor license makes sense.

Thank you for your time this morning and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terrie Wood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

Terrie Wood  
State Representative