



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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**Testimony of Rep. Mary Mushinsky (85th) in Support of RB 5429, An Act
Establishing a Craft Distiller Permit**
Before the General Law Committee Thursday, March 6, 2013, 1:00 p.m. 1B

This bill, following the attempted amendments of last year, exists to give parity to on-premise sales by a small craft distillery, Elm City Distillery of Wallingford. Like wineries and craft beer producers, Elm City wishes to sell their product to consumers after they have toured the small business. Owner Eric Kotowski operates this artisan distillery which makes Velocipede Vodka and Nine Square Rye. He is seeking comparable language to legislation we passed to assist farm wineries and craft breweries.

Specifically, this Wallingford small business requests a few changes in the bill. In line 13-14, please delete "per day" to make the language parallel to package store tastings. In line 17, please delete "at least one thousand gallons but" as small distilleries which have just started production are more in the 500 gallon per year range; some would not even meet that minimum gallon figure for the first year to 18 months as they learn how to produce their product. The maximum production of 10,000 gallons per annum is an attempt to distinguish a small craft distillery. There is no federal definition but one can find industry suggestions on the internet. In line 19, please change "one liter" to "two liters" and delete the 60 day period language. Or, if you are seeking language comparable to wineries, you could limit sales to 5 liters in any 60 day period. Wineries have a similar equivalent limit expressed in gallons.

Thank you for raising this bill which will help a small, CT-grown business. We have been meeting since last session in an effort to rewrite this language, and trust the committee will talk to all stakeholders as the bill is crafted.

