



Russell Holmberg

Holmberg Orchards & Winery
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My name is Russell Holmberg, of Holmberg Orchards and Winery in Gales Ferry, Connecticut. Holmberg Orchards is a fifty acre, diversified fruit farm consisting of a farm market, pick-your-own orchard and a farm winery. I am the fourth generation to farm at Holmberg Orchards.

I am writing in support of HB 5119 AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN BRANDY BY FARM WINERIES. This bill would be of great benefit to my operation by providing additional products I could market from crops grown on my farm without the costly purchase of distillation equipment. It would also provide a new revenue stream to existing distilleries in the state that have this equipment and excess capacity to run it.

However, in order for this to happen, the committee must make on change to the language of the bill:

"Brandy manufactured from grapes **AND FRUIT** harvested on the premises of such farm winery and distilled off such premises"

This change is critical to my operation because much of the wine we produce is made from fruits other than grape. This change would allow the production of brandy made from those fruit.

If further information, explanation, or testimony is required please contact me directly at (860) 575 2888.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Russell Holmberg". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Russell Holmberg