

TIMOTHY & KELLY SMITH
9 JUNIPER ROAD
ROWAYTON, CT 06853

February 16, 2015

Dear Representative Wood:

Kelly and I would like to voice our wholehearted support for HB 5349, an act in support of wine and beer sales at Connecticut cheese shops. We have been long customers of Darien Cheese Shop (almost 30 years) and believe that stores like this would better serve their customers by having the option of being able to sell beer and wine. Since cheese goes so well with wine...and beer, it is an item that stores like Darien Cheese Shop should be able to sell. I greatly value the advice of the skilled staff at the Cheese Shop to steer me towards great cheeses and would equally value their advice in suggesting accompanying wines or beer.

Given the small size of Darien Cheese Shop and their limited buying power, they are not going to be able to either store a large variety of wines and beer nor offer them at prices that would take business away from small package stores...or certainly the large liquor whole sellers. In fact, it may increase sales since you may find a wine at Darien Cheese Shop that you would then go on to buy at other wine and liquor outlets. Kelly and I usually buy our wine and beer at a local store here in Rowayton, Rowayton Wines...and don't believe that Darien Cheese Shop would decrease in any way our purchases of wine and beer at Rowayton Wines.

So in summary, we see HB 5349 as a win/win - it will help local cheese shops offer more to their clientele while having no negative sales impact on Connecticut package stores since the only wines and beer you would buy at a cheese shop are ones best suited for the cheese you purchased. You would not go to Darien Cheese Shop to make a wine or beer purchase. For that would you continue to go to a local wine or liquor store...or a large wholesaler like Stew Leonard's. As a result, we support the passage of HB 5349.

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signatures of Timothy E. Smith and Kelly Costigan-Smith. The signature for Timothy E. Smith is on the left, and the signature for Kelly Costigan-Smith is on the right.

Timothy E. Smith

Kelly Costigan-Smith