

The Connecticut Small Brand Council Inc.



*To preserve, encourage and expand a vast wine, beer and spirits product selection for Connecticut consumers in the marketplace while also growing jobs.*

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Good afternoon Senator Leone, Representative Baram, Senator Witkos and Representative Carter and members of the General Law Committee. We are submitting this testimony on the following bills:

The Connecticut Small Brand Council (CSBC) is an association that fosters a stronger relationship within the existing three tiered system and the consumer and smaller brand products. CSBC's membership includes small manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers of alcohol that want to expand the already vast selection of wine, beer and spirit products in Connecticut while also increasing the jobs that these small businesses provide to the framework of the Connecticut economy. The CSBC is an advocate for those companies that create the product, ship it and the consumer that buys it.

Proposed H.B. No. 5168 AN ACT CONCERNING THE METHOD OF PAYMENT MADE TO ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR WHOLESALERS. While we acknowledge that there are retailers that may fail to pay their bills on time, we know it is difficult to legislate a universal change to the way that each wholesaler and their respective retail clients do business. We also acknowledge that some of the larger wholesalers have a larger sales force that can focus on payment pickups and and that smaller wholesalers do not have the staff or resources to do the same. Our suggested change to the process would be to allow credit card payments. This would allow those retailers that may not have an ability to send a check by the thirtieth of the month to have the option of payment in a more efficient manner.

*The Connecticut Small Brand Council (CSBC),*

**President,** Adam von Gootkin, Onyx Spirits Company, East Hartford, CT,

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