

WINE AND SPIRITS WHOLESALERS OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

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February 19, 2015

TESTIMONY OF WINE AND SPIRITS WHOLESALERS OF CONNECTICUT

RE: Proposed HB Bill 5773 An Act Allowing Nonprofit Organizations to Host Alcoholic Liquor Tastings and Receive Donations of Alcoholic Liquor.

The WSWC appreciates the opportunity to provide this testimony to the General Law Committee relative to Proposed Senate Bill 5773.

The members of the Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of Connecticut wish to point out to the committee that:

1. CGS § 30-35 allows non-profit organizations can obtain a one day permit to sell alcoholic beverages and conduct tastings; and
2. Conn. Reg § 30-6-A41(b) allows permittees to donate beverage alcohol products to charities.

Who is the WSWC? The Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of Connecticut, Inc. was established in 1964 and since that date has been the trade association representing wine and spirits wholesalers in Connecticut. The WSWC membership totals 53 and its members distribute the vast majority of wines and spirits sold in the state of Connecticut. The members of the WSWC span a diversity of size from very large to very small, but all are family owned businesses. Individually, they employ as many as 230 employees and as few as a one person working part-time. Collectively, they are a significant and integral part of Connecticut's economy. The members of the WSWC:

- contribute in excess of \$200 million dollars in direct and in-direct benefits to the state's economy;
- provide in excess of 1,700 direct jobs to Connecticut residents;
- Pay in excess of \$167 million dollars in wages;
- pay in excess of \$60.2 million dollars in state excise taxes;¹
- promote, market, sell, warehouse and deliver nearly 36,000 different brands; and
- assist the Department of Revenue Services in the collection of Sales and Use Taxes in excess of \$141 Million Dollars annually².

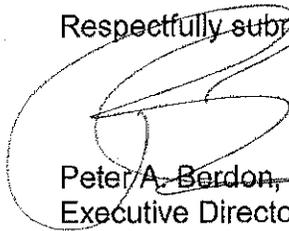
¹ FYE June 30, 2014.

² \$141 million is the total sales and use taxes estimated to be collected on the retail sale of wine, spirits and beer in 2010. Spencer Kane, Cain Associates, LLC, Economic Impact, March 2012. Each year the Department of Revenue Services requests that wholesalers furnish sales made to retailers to determine if individual retailers are fully accounting for all sales.

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February 19, 2015

The members of the WSWC are committed to ensuring that the best possible safeguards to prevent the sale of beverage alcohol to minors are in place and adults of legal drinking age consume beverage alcohol responsibly, while at the same time providing an efficient method of distribution which provides access to a wide variety of quality wine and spirits from all over the world.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter A. Berdon", is written over the typed name below.

~~Peter A. Berdon,~~
Executive Director/General Counsel