

General Law Committee  
Public Hearing 2/19/15

**The Connecticut Beverage Coalition – Hartford Distributors Inc. of Manchester, CT and Levine Distributing Company of Norwich, CT**  
-- respectfully request members of the General Law Committee to Oppose:

**Proposed House Bill 6078 -- AN ACT ALLOWING MICROBREWERIES TO SELL KEGS OF BEER TO CONSUMERS.**

Hartford Distributors Inc. and Levine Distributing Company are both tremendous supporters of Connecticut's Craft Breweries and Microbreweries. We work very hard to promote our high-quality Connecticut brews in restaurants, package stores, grocery stores and at festivals.

However, we must respectfully oppose House Bill 6078. Connecticut – like all other states – has a very well-structured and efficient 3-tier system of alcohol distribution. The Licensed Manufacturers (Brewers) on Tier 1 brew the Beer; the Licensed Wholesalers on Tier 2 distribute the beer to licensed Restaurants, Package Stores and Grocery Stores on Tier 3. The Wholesalers on Tier 2 remit of the excise taxes to the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services.

It's our understanding that currently under Section 30-16(b), a Connecticut Brewery may sell no more than 9-liters of beer to any one visitor at the Brewery. We believe that an extension of this law to allow the Brewery to sell large kegs to visitors would be a bridge-too-far, and would represent too much of a retreat from our well-functioning 3-tier distribution system and our alcohol excise tax remittance system.

Thank you for your consideration of our opposition to Proposed House Bill 6078.