



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE MIKE ALBERTS
FIFTIETH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

35 CORNFIELD POINT
WOODSTOCK, CT 06281

HOME PHONE: (860) 974-3663
CAPITOL PHONE: (800) 842-1423
Mike.Alberts@housegop.ct.gov
www.repalberts.com

ASSISTANT LEADER

MEMBER
BANKS COMMITTEE
COMMERCE COMMITTEE
HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2015

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
IN SUPPORT OF
HOUSE BILL 5119

“AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN BRANDY BY FARM WINERIES.”

Good Morning Chairman Kennedy, Chairman Albis, Ranking Member Chapin, Ranking Member Shaban, and the Honorable Members of the Environment Committee, I am State Representative Mike Alberts of Woodstock. I am truly appreciative that you have chosen to raise this concept for Public Hearing.

The law as currently written creates an unfortunate road block for our small farms and wineries as they seek to market their products and support their community businesses. The standing requirement that the entire product manufacturing process be done on-site is not feasible for most small size farm wineries who are unable to complete the brandy production process on site. House Bill 5119 would allow the farm wineries the flexibility to make and sell brandy from their own produce, grown and harvested on premises, but distilled off-site.

My hope is that the Committee will support this effort to remove a prohibition that unfairly punishes our local farm wineries for their small size. By allowing CT farms to sell their product, though distilled off-site, we will be supporting Connecticut-grown produce and community based businesses for the benefit of our entire state economy.

Again, I thank the Committee for the opportunity to comment on this legislation and I urge your support in moving it forward.