

Date: March 19, 2015

To: Members of the Environment Committee

From: Jamie Jones – Jones Family Farms and Winery, Shelton

Re: Opposition to H.B. 6618 An Act Concerning the Threshold for Labeling Wine as “Connecticut Grown.”

This bill appears to propose that you could label wine as local or Connecticut Grown when it is not. As the Connecticut Farm Winery Act stands now, 25% of the fruit for your winery must come from Connecticut to get a Connecticut farm winery license. The other 75% can come from anywhere else in the world. Labeling of wine is a Federal issue enforced by the Alcohol Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB). The TTB has strict rules governing what can and cannot appear on a label that applies to every bottle of alcohol sold in the U.S. This proposed bill changes would be a misrepresentation to the consumer and create a legal conflict with federal laws. It would also be a disservice to our farm winery and the other Connecticut wineries who market their wines as Connecticut Grown and contain 100% Connecticut fruit. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.