



QUALITY FARM PRODUCTS SINCE 1871
"Orchard Hill Farm" West Side Phone 35

6 Generations in Agriculture

Walter Goodrich Bishop
Burton Walter Bishop
Arthur & Charles R. Bishop
Albert & Charles E. Bishop
Keith, Jonathan & Diane Bishop
Sarah Bishop DellaVentura

B.W. BISHOP & SONS, INC.
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GUILFORD, CT 06437-2318



March 20, 2015

To: Environment Committee, CT State Legislature
Re: ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE THRESHOLD FOR LABELING WINE AS "CONNECTICUT-GROWN"***
Position: **Against**

Dear Honorable Senators and Representatives:

I am a 5th generation farm owner with 30 years of hands on farm management. Our family operates a 313 acre fruit and vegetable farm, year round Farm Market, Farm Winery, and Pick-Your-Own operation in Guilford and Northford.

I am surprised that such a bill could be introduced, and have spoken with the several of you about my concern and desire to improve and increase the use of farmland in CT to grow crops for our local consumers. In our state, the costs of farming is well above that in most other regions, and buying farm products for resale is becoming more prominent for capital intensive crops like fruit.

From how I read it, it proposes that you could label wine as local or CT Grown when it isn't. As the CT law stands now, 25% of fruit for your winery needs to come from CT to get a CT 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). They have strict rules governing what can and cannot appear on a label that applies to every bottle of alcohol sold in the U.S.

This bill change would be a misrepresentation to the consumer, create a legal conflict with federal laws and be a disservice to our farm winery where 100% of the fruit comes from our land or other CT farms.

This bill should not be approved by the Environment Committee.

I'm glad to talk with you further about the complexities of the farm winery statutes and how they are interpreted, and the wide variations of types of wineries and how that impacts our industry and new entrants into the farm winery arena.

Respectfully,

Keith B. Bishop
Winemaker & Co-Owner

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WINERY - PICK YOUR OWN
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