

Testimony of
Brescome Barton, Inc.
on
Senate Bill 946
“An Act Concerning Revenue Items to Implement
the Governor’s Budget”

March 9, 2015

Mr. Chairmen. Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee. Brescome Barton would like to comment on Senate Bill 946, “An Act Concerning Revenue Items to Implement the Governor’s Budget.” Governor Malloy has built into his proposed biennial budget approximately \$6.6 million as a result of three proposed changes to this state’s alcohol beverage laws. The Governor has recommended extending the sale hours for package stores until 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday and would permit these stores to be open until 8 p.m. on Sunday. Additionally, the Governor has called for the elimination of the state’s minimum bottle law and allowing ownership of six stores.

We **oppose these changes** on a number of grounds. First, in 2012, the Connecticut legislature moved to modernize our liquor laws by allowing Sunday sales and increased the number of package store permits one could own from one to three. We have over 1,100 package stores in Connecticut, the majority of which are small “mom and pop” operations. These small businesses are still trying to adjust to these changes. Eliminating minimum bottle, again extending hours and permitting an individual or company to own up to six stores will place these businesses at great risk. We believe it would be unwise to risk jobs in our industry just as Connecticut is attempting to recover from the last recession.

Finally, Brescome Barton, Inc., a wine and spirit wholesaler, with offices and a warehouse in North Haven, CT and over 400 employees, has been in the forefront of responsible drinking programs in our state. We believe we need to continue the state’s strong regulatory control over the sale of alcohol and its impact on public health, safety and welfare.