

## Testimony before the General Law Committee—House Bill 6885

March 5, 2015

My name is Tim Adams. I am co-owner of J. Timothy's Taverne in Plainville and a past chairman of the Connecticut Restaurant Association. The "growler bill" is a bill for consumers as well as restaurants. The impetus for the Restaurant Association being behind this bill started with our customers.

As craft beer gained popularity over the last several years, our customers began asking again and again whether we were able to refill their growlers. Growlers, as you know, allow consumers to enjoy fresh draft beer in the comfort of their own home. This is part of a growing trend of people who care, more than ever, about what they eat and drink. Growlers and the ability to refill them are a part of everyday life in the states around us and across the country. We would like to see Connecticut join their ranks.

Connecticut is home to many fledgling brewery operations. Growler sales in retail locations will help expand their market and support this entrepreneurial spirit. Plainville has its own micro-brewery operation that for some time operated out of a single garage bay. I would like to think that our support of his product had something to do with him now operating out of two bays. Being able to sell his growlers would help him even more. Not all consumers live close to our local breweries and therefore cannot avail themselves of the great taste of fresh beer out of a growler.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that successful breweries and brewery sales mean more jobs, more taxes collected, and contribute to the health of a challenged Connecticut economy. Given the rapidly changing landscape of our liquor regulations many of our smaller package stores are being put at risk. The addition of growler sales for them could be an opportunity to rebrand their businesses and create a niche for further prosperity.

The "growler bill" costs our state nothing and gives our consumers what they are asking for. It is nice to be speaking for a piece of legislation that helps everyone and will give our citizens the same options as many of the states around us.