



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Testimony of Rep. Mary Mushinsky in Support of SB 977, An Act Concerning Craft
Manufacturers of Alcoholic Liquor

Before the General Law Committee

March 5, 2015

Sen. Leone, Rep. Baram and committee members:

Thank you for allowing a hearing on this issue. This is my third year trying to pass a bill to assist small craft distilleries such as our local Wallingford business, Elm City Distillery. Since I filed my own proposed bill for our local distillery, I became aware that the other stakeholders in the liquor industry completed negotiating new language and that your committee raised SB 977 which includes this language.

The Wallingford craft distiller is Eric Kotowski, who wanted to testify but had to leave at day's end. His testimony supports the negotiated bill but he is still concerned with the tracking of purchases per person in any two month period. If it is true that vineyards and craft beer breweries are already subject to the same requirement, it would make sense to apply the requirement fairly to all parties.

Now that we have a successful group effort in support of the 2015 bill, I ask your support for this legislation to allow this local businessman to sell his product after visitors tour his craft distillery. It is the same authorization we allow other producers in the craft liquor business. Thank you for your help for this small business.