

connecticut

beer wholesalers association

The eight members of the Connecticut Beer Wholesaler's would like to bring to the Environment Committee's consideration that existing law already allows Connecticut breweries the majority of the privileges proposed in House Bill 5580 AAC Farm Brewery Manufacturer Permit.

For this reason, we believe that a farm brewery may obtain an existing permit that confers the same core privileges proposed in the bill. We hope that it is helpful to compare the current permits with the proposed farm brewery permit: Please, see the chart below

PRIVILEGE	MANUFACTURER PERMIT	MANUFACTURER / BREWPUB PERMIT	FARM BREWERY PERMIT
Manufacture and bottle beer	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sell product to a wholesaler (for distribution)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sell product directly to retailer (self-distribution)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Conduct tastings	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sell beer for on-premises consumption	No	Yes	Yes
Sell beer for off-premises consumption	Up to 9 liters per customer per day	Up to 9 liters per customer per day	Unlimited
Sell food (restaurant on premises)	No	Yes	No
Sell at farmer's markets	Yes	Yes	Yes
Personally grown barley/hops requirement	No	No	Yes. 25% of input in first year, 50% thereafter.
Direct shipment to consumers	No	No	Yes
Permit fee	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$300

Conversely, there are three significant differences between existing law: (1) HB 5580 imposes no limit on sales for off-premises consumption. Existing in-state brewer permits are subject to a nine - liter per day limit. We believe that it is critical to retain a level playing field. For this reason, we respectfully request HB 5580 establish a nine - liter per day limit on the farmer-brewery as well, (2) direct

shipping to consumers - currently only retailer permits are authorized to ship beer to consumers. We vehemently oppose this provision of the bill. We do not believe that a farm brewery should be given this privilege when no other Connecticut brewer has it, and (3) HB 5580 as proposed would establish a lower permit fee for a farm brewery of \$300. The existing permits are \$1,000 for a beer manufacturer permit or \$1,500 for the combined manufacturer/brew pub permit.

We understand that perhaps the purpose of HB 5580 is to incentivize the harvesting of hops in Connecticut. We believe that there are simpler ways to achieve this goal than creating a new and largely redundant permit class with unfair advantages to existing Connecticut brewers.

We hope that the Environment Committee would recognize that there are a growing number of existing breweries providing a significant contribution to Connecticut's economy. For the reasons outlined in our testimony, we would ask the committee to retain the existing privileges of Connecticut breweries for all rather than creating a new and largely redundant permit class with unfair advantages to existing breweries.