

To whom it may concern,

As a brewer of Connecticut beer I am writing in support of House Bill 5036 to eliminate the 9 liter limit on beer purchased at breweries for off site consumption. For the past five years I have been working with several Connecticut breweries, helping them build their small businesses. In fact, I am currently working on starting one of my own in Torrington, CT.

I currently brew beer in Kent Connecticut. Our label artist works at a small specialty wine shop 5 minutes away from our brewery. We have a great relationship as friends and business professionals. We love supporting the local wine shop but I always find myself wondering why we are limited to selling such a small quantity of our products directly to a consumer. On countless occasions I have written invoices for kegs (more than 9 liters of beer) that were then delivered right down the road from our brewery to be resold for a higher price. Why can't one of our loyal customers come to us directly to buy that keg or enough beer to supply a private party or gathering with friends and family? I find it perplexing that a local store down the road can sell more product than a small artisanal supplier who is located a few miles. Just a quick example.

Thank you very much for your time. I hope this bill passes and these small hard working companies can continue to grow and create jobs through locally focused innovation.

Cheers.