

Good Evening,

As a small business owner who purchases craft beer from several breweries around New England, I wholeheartedly support HB 5036. Throughout my travels, I always wondered why the limits of retail craft beer sales in CT are so tight in comparison to other neighboring states let alone the vineyard laws right in our own back yard. I lived in CT my entire life, I've watched breweries like Beer'd Brewing, Black Hog, Fox Farm & Two Roads "grow up" in our state from day one. As someone who owns & operates a bar, it my job to watch the trends in the craft beer community & right now the trend is MORE CRAFT BEER! People come to my bar from all over New England just to taste specific beers we have on tap. I consistently hear their frustrations during their visits: "Why are the laws here so weird? It was super annoying that I couldn't even get a case of beers while I visited "x-y-x" brewery this week. What's the deal? I can in Mass. When are they going to change this?" One of the most powerful ways we can help this exciting industry is by lifting 9 liter retail volume limitation from these wonderful establishments. These small businesses lose a TON of margin when they have to go through a middle man (distributor, etc) when selling their beer. Let's help them keep some of the profit they're pouring blood, sweat & tears into! They need these profits to expand their business & create more jobs. If we're going to keep the economy thriving (which we all know CT desperately needs) then we NEED to make it attractive to craft breweries to STAY in CT. I'm fearful that we'll see more small businesses leaving the state if we don't make a change that clearly supports them. Please consider supporting HB 5036 & let the industry thrive. These fine folks are trying to make a life out of their passion & I certainly hope CT can support them. Thank you kindly for your consideration.

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