



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 701, Hartford, CT 06103

Office of the Commissioner



Good morning members of the General Law Committee,

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is pleased to submit testimony in support of several bills on your agenda for today's public hearing.

We support Governor Malloy's House Bill 5036, *An Act Promoting Craft Breweries and Distilleries and Price Fairness*.

In 2017, this agency advocated for and secured approval of legislation that would support Connecticut's emerging craft brewery industry by developing a Connecticut Craft Beer designation and standards to promote products that were made with Connecticut Grown ingredients.

Governor Malloy's proposal enhances that initiative by removing limitations on the amount of beer an individual can purchase at a farm brewery.

Current law limits retail sales at farm breweries to not more than nine liters, which is just short of a case of beer. Because this existing limitation puts farm breweries at a disadvantage. We support the change recommended by the governor.

This agency also supports market expansion for farm wineries by including language in Senate Bill 307, *An Act Concerning Alcoholic Liquor*.

This proposal would allow for retail sales of wine from Connecticut farm wineries in grocery stores. Support of these local small businesses and providing market access is key to helping Connecticut's farm wine industry grow and succeed.

Thank you for your consideration of these proposals. The Department of Agriculture remains committed to growing Connecticut farms and businesses through a thriving Connecticut Grown brand and related Connecticut made products, and we look forward to working with you on this effort for the benefit of the entire state.