



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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March 6, 2018

Testimony from Representative Jeff Currey
In Support Of

House Bill 5036 An Act Promoting Craft Breweries And Distilleries And Price Fairness

Chairmen D'Agostino, Leone, and Witkos; Vice Chairs; Ranking Member; and Distinguished Members of the General Law Committee:

I write in support of Section 1(i)(2)(A) of **House Bill 5036 An Act Promoting Craft Breweries And Distilleries and Price Fairness**. This section would permit the sale of products in the form of mixed beverages onsite at distilleries.

Currently, distilleries are not allowed to sell their products in this form in their tasting rooms or elsewhere on the premises unlike the opportunities the state has afforded patrons of breweries and vineyards who can taste both beer or wine by the glass. Because distillers are not allowed to do so, they and the state are losing out on significant revenue. This provision would put all spirit merchants on a level playing field.

This issue was brought to my attention by two distillers located in towns I represent. They explained that there is a demand for their product and allowing this sale will both enhance the experience of distillery patrons and boost profits. In my request to the committee to raise this legislation, I sited Iowa's recent success in passing similar legislation. Their distilleries have seen record sales.

I urge passage of this provision because it will increase business opportunities, employment opportunities, and overall revenue. This is a step in making Connecticut a better place for local commerce to expand and grow their offerings.

I thank you for your consideration.