



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE TOM DELNICKI
FOURTEENTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING ROOM 4200
300 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

HOME: (860) 644-0026
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
Tom.Delnicki@housegop.ct.gov

MEMBER
BANKING COMMITTEE
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Testimony in PARTIAL SUPPORT of House Bill 5036
An Act Promoting Craft Breweries and Distilleries and Price Fairness.
General Law Committee
March 6, 2018

Chair D'Agostino; Co-Chairs Leone and Witkos; Vice Chairs Kissel, Larson, and Arconti; Ranking Member Smith; and Distinguished Members of the General Law Committee:

I write today in partial support of **House Bill Number 5036: An Act Promoting Craft Breweries and Distilleries and Price Fairness**, specifically in support of its elimination of the "daily" restriction on the sale of product for offsite consumption.

On February 22nd, I had the privilege to attend the grand opening and ribbon cutting for Connecticut Valley Brewing Company in South Windsor. Although this state-of-the-art craft brewery is still relatively new, owners Steve and Lori Palauskas are already considering expanding. However, they expressed concerns that obstacles outside of their control are hindering its full potential.

Chief among the obstacles that Steve and Lori identified is the state's restriction on the amount of product that they can sell (per customer) for off-site consumption. For example, by current state law, Connecticut Valley Brewing Company (and other craft breweries), cannot even sell a full case of beer to a single customer in a single day.

Craft Breweries provide good jobs, grow the tax base of our local communities, and support other businesses during construction and operation. Yet, we are limiting their growth by unnecessary and unreasonable restrictions. If we truly believe in making Connecticut "Open for Business," then the limit on the amount of product they sell to a customer for consumption off site must be lifted.

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in **PARTIAL SUPPORT** of House Bill 5036, and **I strongly urge the General Law Committee to consider this concept as a STAND ALONE bill.** These small business people deserve fair consideration and a vote strictly on the merits of their issue.