



SENATOR PAUL FORMICA
TWENTIETH SENATE DISTRICT

Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue, Suite 3400
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591
Capitol: (800) 842-1421
E-Mail: Paul.Formica@cga.ct.gov
Website: www.SenatorFormica.com

State of Connecticut
SENATE

**ASSISTANT SENATE REPUBLICAN
MAJORITY LEADER**

**CO-CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

**MEMBER
COMMERCE COMMITTEE**

General Law - 10 am 1 E

Testimony

General Law Committee

House Bill 5036, An Act Promoting Craft Breweries and Distilleries and Price Fairness

March 6, 2018

Senator Witkos, Senator Leone, Representative D'Agostino, Representative Smith and distinguished members of the General Law Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of one specific provision of House Bill 5036, An Act Promoting Craft Breweries and Distilleries and Price Fairness.

Craft beer production is a growing industry throughout our nation. According to the Brewers Association trade organization craft brewers represent 12 percent market share of the overall beer industry in the U.S. In New England, we see the industry booming and growing at rapid rates, including right here in Connecticut. We had approximately 35 craft breweries in 2015 in our state with a \$569 million economic impact in 2014 according to Brewers Association.

Seeing this growth thus far, I believe there is untapped potential for even further economic development, business expansion and job growth. After meeting with craft brewers, I understand that there are some challenges that may put craft brewers at a disadvantage when running their businesses. Specifically, it has been brought to my attention that the state limits what craft brewers call sell to consumers for offsite consumption. This amounts to approximately 19 cans per consumer. Since most craft beer packaging is configured in 6, four-packs in a 24 can case flat the law not only limits what can be sold but results in packaging that does not match up to typical sizing and often wastes both material and money. This problem is not faced by brewers in our neighboring states and could therefore impact where business owners chose to open up future businesses.

In light of this issue, I offer my support for the provision of this bill that expands the amount of beer a craft brewer could sell to a customer. By adding beer sales at a brewery, local brewers have been able to expand business, add new jobs, and further prosper. By expanding what they can sell, we can expand their potential for success even further.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for this provision.