

Dear Representatives and distinguished members of the General Law Committee. My name is Ryan Galligan, I am the taproom manager at The Firefly Hollow Brewery in Bristol CT. I am submitting written testimony in support of H.B. 5036 – An Act Promoting Craft Breweries and Distilleries and Price Fairness. As a resident of the State of Connecticut I want to thank you for the opportunity to voice my support of House Bill 5036.

The proposed changes affect not only myself, but also my family members , friends and guests that visit from out of state to spend their hard earned dollars in our local economy. The component of this bill that is most important to me is the removal of the nine-liter retail limit imposed upon state manufacturers of beer. I am a beer judge, employee of a brewery and vehemently passionate about this beer industry and its prosperity. The success of this industry largely impacts the lives of those who work within it and the success of the breweries they represent. In my opinion, this proposed change will impact breweries and the local beer industry in a positive way, allowing the consumer to purchase more volume from the breweries they visit and resulting in the local beer industry to further prosper.

The availability of very fresh craft beer is a luxury that should be enjoyed by all who wish to partake, such as myself and fellow beer lovers. As the law currently reads, if I visit my local CT-based brewery, I am only able to purchase nine-liters of beer to take home with me, requiring me to bring another person with me to be able to purchase enough beer to supply for a party or other social gathering. This goes the same for the guests of my taproom, who are told daily that they cannot purchase more than nine-liters of beer at a time. I find this to be an inconvenience to our business and the growth of CT breweries, to have to turn away sales which could help us all grow, just because of the nine-liter law. This hinders the growth of our company resulting in our brewery losing business to local package stores or even wineries where there is no limit on volume that the consumer can purchase and take home with themselves. Many visit local breweries because they know that they will be able to purchase the freshest product directly from the source, but when told that they cannot purchase multiple cases of beer for their upcoming wedding/party/gathering because of a volume limit, results in purchasing elsewhere, often even from neighboring states. Let's keep the business in CT, further growing our local beer community and allowing breweries to sell more than 9 liters directly to consumers.

Thank you,

-Ryan Galligan
Firefly Hollow Brewing Co.