



Dannel P. Malloy

GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

March 6, 2018

Sen. Carlo Leone
Rep. Michael D'Agostino
Sen. Kevin Witkos
Rep. Rich Smith

General Law Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3500
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Testimony from Governor Dannel P. Malloy in support of H.B. 5036, An Act Promoting Craft Breweries and Distilleries and Price Fairness.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this issue. The legislation before you today proposes several changes to give greater discretion to businesses currently selling, distilling, or brewing alcoholic beverages.

My position on Connecticut's minimum bottle pricing law is well established. This state-mandated price fixing creates an anti-competitive environment where business owners have fewer rights than any other industry, and Connecticut consumers ultimately suffer. To address this, this legislation seeks to eliminate Connecticut's existing minimum bottle law.

Craft brewing and craft distilling are exciting, growing industries in Connecticut and across the country. Currently, Connecticut breweries are barred from selling more than 9 liters of their product for off-site consumption, which serves as a real barrier to market penetration. Eliminating that limit would put in-state breweries on par with breweries in other states, allowing these businesses to better compete both in Connecticut and in the region. Additionally, distilleries are prohibited from serving their products in mixed drinks. Permitting these businesses greater flexibility for tastings would bring them in line with the existing regulations around breweries and wineries.

This legislation would modify existing law to allow small business owners the flexibility to compete and excel in our state, to the benefit of the economy and consumers alike. I am proud to stand in support of Connecticut consumers, and I thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Malloy".

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor