

Dear Representative Kupchick, Senator Hwang, Senator Witkos, Representative Smith, and distinguished members of the General Law Committee. My name is Robert Marshall. I am a citizen and voter in Fairfield 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.

I'm writing today as I've personally watched the craft beer industry in CT grow by leaps and bounds in the three years I have lived in the state. In only the last few years CT has gone from about ten licensed breweries to over sixty! This is an incredible feat and has in part been fostered by loosened regulations imposed by the state on these small manufacturers. HB 5036 seeks to eliminate some of these archaic regulations that no longer serve the purpose they were once intended for.

The regulation, I am most in favor of repealing is the regulation against package stores being able to fill growlers on site. This arbitrary rule prevents local breweries from being able to sell their craft beers as widely as possible. It also hinders consumers like myself from being able to buy beers produced locally by small businesses instead of by large multi-national corporations.

As with many manufacturers, retail sales carry the highest margin and as such allow them to grow their sales and manufacturing staff to support these increased sales. When manufacturers are forced to work with middle-men like wholesalers and retailers via the three-tier system, they lose a massive percentage of their margin and subsequently their ability to grow their staff and business is cut away. In a climate where we are constantly griping about jobs leaving for overseas or being eliminated, this cottage industry is creating manufacturing jobs in CT of all places! Eliminating this arbitrary limit on retail sales for breweries should result in increased job creation, increased sales tax revenue, increased excise tax and increased income taxes, which is by all accounts a win for the state of CT. I urge you to support HB 5036 today and be a part of creating a flourishing manufacturing industry in the state!

Thanks for taking the time to read this,

Rob

Robert P. Marshall



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