



State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

March 6, 2018

Dear Senator Leone, Senator Witkos, Representative D'Agostino, Representative Smith, Senator Kissel, Senator Larson, Representative Arconti, and distinguished members of the General Law Committee,

We are writing in support of Section 1 of the Governor's Bill 5036, *An Act Promoting Craft Breweries And Distilleries And Price Fairness*.

In our districts, and throughout Connecticut, craft breweries and distilleries are responding to the demand for locally created specialty beers and spirits. The operations give their owners the opportunity to create and grow their own business, provide social opportunities, and positively impact the local economy. We have visited some brewers and distilleries in our districts and can tell you that these are impressive operations.

Section 1 of House Bill 5036 seeks to update our state's laws on the limits brewers can sell directly to consumers. Presently, craft brewers can sell only nine liters of their beer directly to a single person each day. That amounts to less than one case of beer.

This limitation represents an unfair disadvantage between local brewers and package stores, and it impacts the brewers' economic growth. Just like at package stores, consumers should be able to decide how much beer they want to buy at a brewery.

This limit is a missed opportunity for the brewers and the state for picking up additional revenue. The breweries in our districts are not just businesses, they are a destination for travelers and vacationers interested in local craft brewing. Often, visitors buy Connecticut's craft beers to take to their home state. Brewers that we visited tell us these visitors would buy more than nine liters to take with them if they could.

While breweries are limited to selling nine liters directly to consumers in a single day, no limit exists on the amount of beer that can be sold at package and grocery stores. Removing the sales limit at breweries will level the playing field.

The craft brewing industry is one of the fastest growing business sectors in the country. Removing barriers for local craft breweries ensures that Connecticut brewers capitalize on this growth and stay competitive with neighboring states.

One goal we have as legislators is to help small businesses grow and expand. In doing so, we achieve the mutual goal of job creation. Removing the limit on the amount of beer craft brewers can sell is a positive step we can take towards that goal. We know you share our common desire to promote the success of small businesses and this is one way of achieving that.

Thank you,

Henri Martin

Henri Martin
State Senator
31st District

William A Pettit

William Petit
State Representative
22nd District

Whit Betts

Whit Betts
State Representative
78th District

Cara C Pavalock

Cara Pavalock-D'Amato
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