

Dear Madam Chairperson:

I am writing today 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 want to start by explaining I'm not only a resident of CT but also a huge supporter of CT Beer! The past five years have really seen a massive uptick in availability and quality for in state beer manufacturers. It truly is amazing the speed at which I've seen the industry grow, and with that growth has come growth in skilled labor, charitable giving and community building activities. I often choose to visit the tasting rooms of independent breweries as this is the cheapest, freshest and most informative way for me to buy beer. I know that the money I spend in a local tasting room isn't going to a massive overseas corporation and the beer I receive is of top quality and freshness. My support for HB 5036 mainly stems from my support of the CT beer industry. Until recently, I was unaware that it is in fact a law that breweries can only sell me nine liters of beer in a day. Obviously, it isn't every visit that I brush up against this law, but I've found that when I want to host an evening or share beer with out of town friends, I either need to bring a friend to the brewery for a purchase or I am forced to visit a package store. In my experience, I've found package stores to have a limited selection of CT made beer, most of their inventory is on the older side, they often charge upwards of five dollars more for something that could be found at a brewery, or they repackage the beer that I want with beer that I don't want, forcing me into the sale. This leads me to my point. I find it ridiculous that the state maintains such a law restricting the potential sales and subsequent growth of our flourishing brewing industry. This is akin to me visiting a farmer's market where the state says I'm only allowed to buy ten eggs from the farmer, but if I visit the grocery store down the road, I'm allowed to buy the full dozen. This seems backwards. In a state desperate to create jobs, it seems like stifling a manufacturing industry with proven growth is the wrong way to go. I urge you to pass HB 5036, and show your support for our in-state manufacturers of beer!