

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 am the majority owner of Witchdoctor Brewing Company. We opened the brewery last April, so our company is in the early growing stage. We have learned that small breweries can only sell 9 liters of beer to each customer per day. This restriction is not imposed on package stores and vineyards.

We, as well as the rest of the micro-brewery community, need to be able to sell more than 9 liters to customers who are hosting private parties and other events. If a customer is hosting a party and would like to supply our beer as refreshments, they should be able to purchase enough for their party and not have to buy a large volume of other brand beers from a package store. This is not fair to the customer or to any brewery who this affects.

I have learned that New York and Massachusetts do not impose such a volume limit on beer sales. 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, 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!

Sincerely,

Josh Norris
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