

Dear Representative D'Agostino, Senator Leone, Senator Witkos, Representative Smith, and distinguished members of the General Law Committee. My name is Gregory Post. I am speaking in support of HB 5036-An Act Promoting Craft Breweries and Distilleries and Price Fairness. As a passionate voter and lifelong resident of the great State of Connecticut, I want to thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the dialogue surrounding House Bill 5036, specifically why I am in full support of its passage.

For the sake of full transparency, I will begin by acknowledging my inherent bias in favor of the bill! I am the Sales and Brand Ambassador for Beer'd Brewing, located in my hometown of Stonington Connecticut. It goes without saying that a law that removes archaic regulations on one of Connecticut's fastest growing industries would benefit the company I work for. Yet I feel that to understand why I feel as strongly as I do about the craft brewing industry can provide a little context.

My senior year at the University of Connecticut, my family took me down the road to the Willimantic Brewing Company. It was a special meal for many reasons, but I remember noting that it was the first time I had ever had craft beer from my home state. Prior to that: craft beer to me was basically Sam Adams, Harpoon, and Long Trail. I returned often with my roommates that year, and when it was time to go our separate ways we had one final meal there. We all wanted to take as much home to our families houses for the summer as we could. This was my first time encountering the rigid laws that are in place hampering the growth of these exceptional small businesses.

Before I got a chance to be a part of Aaren and Precious's story, I was a loyal customer of their business. It made me so happy to see a fellow Stonington High School graduate return home and contribute something positive to our community. I was floored when within the first year of sliding open their doors that he was able to make it his full-time job. As they grew and expanded their production, I was lucky enough to get a part time position in their tap room. It was supposed to only be a temporary gig, something to help with saving up for my wedding later that year. Yet it became the job I looked forward to, becoming something that made my regular work week at Travelers Insurance down the road quite dull in comparison! When their organic growth justified bringing on someone to take their distribution and sales needs to the next level, I was honored to be the person they asked.

Connecticut is like many states that is fighting to protect and create jobs that ensure a healthy tax base to operate into the foreseeable future. With sixty breweries and counting, we are emerging as a powerhouse in the New England craft beer scene. This translates not just into more jobs for residents, but a year round spike in tourism throughout the state, as patrons will no doubt need everything from a bite to eat to a tank of gas as they tour the best of what the Constitution State has on draft. Bars and restaurants no longer need to look across state lines to find fine ales for their loyal customers. House Bill 5036 is a much-needed boost to small businesses that have put it all on the line for our beloved state of Connecticut. Supporting this bill is supporting the future of the state I am proud to call home.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Gregory Post