



State of Connecticut

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Testimony in Support of
House Bill 5036, An Act Promoting Craft Breweries and Distilleries and Price Fairness
General Law Committee
March 6, 2018

I would like to thank Chairman Witkos, Chairman Leone, Chairman D'Agostino, Ranking Member Smith, and distinguished members of the General Law Committee for raising House Bill 5036, An Act Promoting Craft Breweries and Distilleries and Price Fairness and considering my testimony. In particular, I'd like to voice my strong support for section one which would allow craft breweries to sell more than nine liters of beer per person, per day. I submitted the same proposal earlier this year.

In the midst of all the challenges our state faces, craft breweries have been a bright spot in our economy. Over the past several years, their numbers have grown exponentially and the benefits they have provided our communities are immeasurable. We all take great pride in the fact that Connecticut is a leader in this industry. Accordingly, we as state officials have touted their tremendous success and sought ways to further promote them. However, one impediment in existing state statute has persisted. Connecticut General Statutes Section 30-16 prohibits breweries from selling more than nine liters to any individual in any one day. Nine liters is unnecessarily restrictive, and significantly inhibits growth. After conversations I have had with breweries in our state, they have consistently identified this issue as a primary obstacle to their success.

Throughout our broader policy discourse, we have talked about new and innovative ways to foster business growth and improve our economic competitiveness. Indeed, there is no better way to do this than by simply alleviating existing limitations on the amount of product a business is allowed to sell. For that reason, I hope we can come together on a bipartisan basis to move this common-sense but highly impactful legislation forward.

Once again, thank you for raising this legislation and considering my testimony.

Rob Sampson
State Representative, 80th District.