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**Submitted by: Henry N. Talmage, Executive Director, Connecticut Farm Bureau Association, a statewide nonprofit membership organization representing 4,000 families dedicated to farming and the future of Connecticut agriculture.**

**Senator Leone, Senator Witkos, Representative D Agostino and members of the Committee on General Law,**

**Testimony on:**

**Senate Bill No. 307 AN ACT CONCERNING ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR**

The Connecticut Farm Bureau supports legislation that would encourage further development and expansion of farm-based wineries, breweries and distilleries. To that end, we support the idea of allowing holders of Farm Winery Permits and CT Farm Brewery Permits to be allowed to provide tastings and sell each other's products at their farm locations. We also support legislation that would allow the sale of wine produced by holders of CT Farm Winery Permits in grocery stores. Both of these initiatives would serve to grow local agriculture and put more land into production for this emerging farm sector.

**House Bill No. 5036 AN ACT PROMOTING CRAFT BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES AND PRICE FAIRNESS.**

The Connecticut Farm Bureau supports the provisions contained in HB No.5036 that would allow craft breweries to sell more than 9 liters as well as the provision that would allow distilleries the ability to sell mixed drinks made with up to two ounces of their product.

**House Bill No. 5368 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SHIPMENT OF WINE TO CONSUMERS.**

The Connecticut Farm Bureau is concerned about the proposal contained in HB No. 5368 that would allow for out-of-state retailers to ship wine directly to consumers in Connecticut. We believe that this would be counterproductive to developing emerging CT Farm Wineries by introducing competition for consumer dollars. We hope as an alternative you will provide additional purchasing convenience for CT consumers by allowing the sale of CT grown wines at grocery stores.