



Connecticut Vineyard and Winery Association

433 South Main St., Suite 309 · West Hartford, CT 06110 · 860.216.6439 · www.ctwine.com

**Testimony submitted by
Hilary Criollo
President
Connecticut Vineyard and Winery Association
General Law Committee Public Hearing
Tuesday, January 31, 2023**

HB 6241: AN ACT CONCERNING FARM WINERY PERMITTEES

Dear Honorable Members of the General Law Committee:

On behalf of the Connecticut Vineyard and Winery Association (CVWA), we thank you for raising **HB 6241 AN ACT CONCERNING FARM WINERY PERMITTEES** and working with the proponent to address their constituent's concerns. However, as currently drafted, we are concerned the deletion of lines 63-75 with respect to existing language that has been in statute for the farm winery manufactures in our state. While lines 75-77 keeps in place that Connecticut farm winery permittee's total annual wine ingredients must contain 25% fruit grown in our state, the deletion of lines 63-75 would allow a farm winery to not be located on or associated with a farm operated by the permittee, and not grow any grapes by the farm permittee.

We suggest that in lines 63-68 the change in language clarifies the existing statute, but maintains the requirement of Connecticut grown fruit be used by Connecticut Farm Wineries.

The farm winery permittee shall grow on the premises of the farm winery or on property under the same ownership and control of said permittee or leased by the backer of a farm winery permit or by said permittee or [grower of fruit](#) within the farm winery's principal state an average crop of fruit equal to not less than twenty-five per cent of the fruit used in the manufacture of the farm winery permittee's wine.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Hilary Criollo, owner Hopkins Vineyard, President CVWA