

PA 11-227

SB0464

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**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**GENERAL
LAW
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SENATOR KISSEL: Thank you, Chiefs.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

SENATOR DOYLE: Thank you, Senator.

Any other questions from committee members?

Seeing none, thank you very much, gentlemen.

JAMES STRILLACCI: Thank you, Senator.

SENATOR DOYLE: Next speaker, Senator Andrew Maynard.

Sir, I think you have -- you -- you're obligated to weigh in on Sunday sales, you know.

SENATOR MAYNARD: No comment.

Chairman Doyle, Chairman Taborsak, distinguished members of the General Law Committee, thank you for the opportunity today to testify on behalf of Senate Bill 464. I will be brief in my comments. I'm joined by Chris Kepple, an employee of the Cottrell Brewing Company and a strong advocate of the Connecticut Beer Trail.

I just want to say briefly, it's easy, especially in this building when we have so many serious and ponderous issues to discuss, and many of which you're going to be addressing later in -- today, to make light of something as -- as sort of whimsical sounding as the Connecticut Beer Trail, but I want to assure you, this is a serious effort.

We have five breweries in the state of Connecticut, 11 brew pubs, that are distributed throughout the state, and I'd call your attention to written testimony submitted by Chris Sullivan, who is the Editor of the Ale Street News, which covers all things brewery-

related in the state of Connecticut. He outlines on the back of his testimony a -- a -- it's a list of the five brew companies in 11 -- some of the 11 brew pubs around the state, and they're in every part of the state.

Our interest here is, in a difficult economic time, to highlight a growing industry in the state of Connecticut. This is a growing business. It's done -- it's flourishing, in fact, in many ways, but it's under-promoted, and the Connecticut Beer Trail, which will -- actually I think -- prefer to refer to in the future as the Connecticut Brewery Trail, simply because I think it does a little bit better job of -- of precisely nailing what it is we're -- we're trying to promote.

It -- modeled on the Connecticut Wine Trail, it would allow both residents and visitors to the state to know about this very special part of our state economy, and highlight, I think, a business as I say that it's -- it's growing and has an enthusiastic following as I've found now on Facebook and on the blogosphere as -- as this bill has come forward. So without further ado, I'll turn the microphone over to Chris Kepple for his testimony with your indulgence.

CHRIS KEPPLER: Good morning. Thanks for letting me speak today.

I'll just read my statement, which I have also prepared a map of the breweries and the brew pubs throughout the state, just to -- illustrate the geographical range that the brewing industry covers, and a mockup for -- just to illustrate what a Made in Connecticut logo could look like, sort of following in the footsteps of the Connecticut Grown campaign to call attention to the things that we manufacture here in our state.

The purpose of this bill is promote the manufactures and sale of Connecticut made beer, to highlight for local area residents and visitors the unique and outstanding craft beer culture of the Nutmeg State, and to identify, for residents and visitors alike, brews genuinely made in the state of Connecticut. We have some brands and beers coming in, from out of state and out of country, branding themselves after local places, and local, you know, local destinations in the state. That is a pain to the Connecticut breweries.

The Connecticut Brewery Trail and Made in Connecticut logo are hoping to follow in the footsteps of the successful Connecticut Wine Trail and Connecticut Grown campaign. This under-promoted segment of the Connecticut economy has traditionally been a tiny fraction of the state's overall beer consumption. Recent growth trends in the craft beer industry, across the nation and in the state, specifically have given us encouragement -- us being these local artisan breweries and brew pubs. These small breweries compete against some very large and powerful global corporations in the marketplace every day, and really do need the support of our home state.

Last year, in an economic downturn, my brewery, Cottrell Brewery, hired another full-time brewer and part-time sales person and grew its sales in Connecticut by over 30 percent.

New England Brewing, who couldn't be here today, grew its sales by over 40 percent and is hiring two new employees.

Old Burnside grew over 20 percent and hired another part-time employee.

And Hooker Brewing probably has the most -- exciting expansion under way, of all of us. They're -- they've hired five new employees, grew 20 percent, and they're doing a -- a capital kind of expansion in their facility.

Why support Connecticut beer? Connecticut breweries add to the unique character and the culture of our state. They contribute to making the state a unique and exceptional destination for visitors and residents alike. For most New England states, their beer is a matter of state pride. We should embrace this model here in Connecticut. And I'm kind of referring to the Vermont phenomena, and New Hampshire.

In addition, local beer is greener, cutting carbon footprints and emission. Connecticut breweries ship their beer locally using less fuel and helping to keep the air cleaner and our roads less congested. Connecticut breweries hire here, we live here, we play here, and we inspire here, giving generously to local charities and acting as active community partners.

In addition, when you purchase a local product, not just beer, but any local agricultural product, a greater portion of the revenue stays in the community and the state, up to two thirds, so that's a direct economic benefit for all of us.

What if, you know, in the future, Connecticut breweries could make up five to 10 percent of the beer consumed, rather than the one to two percent it is right now? It would certainly become an important ingredient to the state's economic well-being in the future.

So, I hope you can find it in your hearts to support a Connecticut Brewery Trail, and the

creation of a Made in Connecticut state logo.
Let's take pride in our -- our local breweries.
Thank you very much.

SENATOR DOYLE: Thank you. Before -- I just want to ask you a quick question for background. I don't know if -- if the Senator, or Chris, you want to answer it.

The proposed bill is basically one sentence. I just -- if you could just give us some background, what -- what is actually the goal of the legislation to you? Is -- is it just a map? Or -- I'm not sure what it is.

SENATOR MAYNARD: Well, it would be largely to follow in the footsteps of the Connecticut Wine Trail which has -- in concert with the Connecticut culture on -- on -- Commission on Culture and Tourism, has put together signage directing motorists to -- to member wineries on the Wine Trail, other things that have been done, and we could discuss this more fully.

But they -- I know the Wine Trail has a passport book, the idea being that as you attend different wineries throughout the state, over time you, you know, get it -- your passport stamped, and I think they have some incentive bonus or drawing as a result of that.

Certainly, we want to underscore the idea that this is not about seeing to it that people hit every brewery on one afternoon. We're not trying to encourage people to go quickly around the state. Neither has the Wine Trail sought to do that. You know, it's really just sort of about regionally promoting nearby breweries and brew pubs, and also attracting out-of-state tourists to it.

SENATOR DOYLE: Thank you.

Any questions from committee members?

Representative Rebimbas. Representative
Rebimbas?

REP. REBIMBAS: Oh, thank you, Mr. Chair.

Good morning. Thank you for your testimony this
morning.

Either Senator, or Chris, I'm not sure who can
answer this.

I do know with the Connecticut Wine Trail, for
example, there is a cost associated with the
signs. Is this something -- and I don't know if
there's a brewery association -- but is this
something -- unfortunately because in light of
the budget, is this something that the breweries
would be willing to take upon themselves as a
cost for the creation of the signs, replacement,
and or maintenance of the signs if this were to
pass?

CHRIS KEPPLER: I think that at this stage we're open
to exploring either route, or possibly a sharing
of the costs between the State. We are looking
for the State to give us some support, and --
and hopefully as a reciprocal relationship,
seeing that if they support this growing
industry, that it will create benefits for the
State, long-term and short-term, economically.

But it's something we haven't really -- we would
love for the State to pay for the signs, the
same as I believe they did for the Wine Trail,
but if it had to be a shared cost, or the
breweries had to shoulder the costs, that's
something we could consider.

REP. REBIMBAS: Thank you, and just one additional question.

Is there any other states that you know of that has a similar trail?

CHRIS KEPPLER: In -- I certainly know that in -- in Vermont and in New Hampshire that visiting breweries is a -- is a kind of a big part of the culture -- cultural experience there, and there are -- there is signage. I don't know the origin of that signage, whether it's State-sponsored or brewery sponsored, but it is kind of part of the New England experience to make the -- make the destinations available.

SENATOR MAYNARD: If I -- if I may add -- and now in my capacity as Chairman of Transportation, I also know that we have some significant restrictions on the signage that can go on the roadways. So we -- part of this effort is simply to permit additional signage that would be otherwise, you know, sort of a -- a bit of a challenge to -- to get through D of T's rather rigorous sign procedures.

A VOICE: As you're learning. As you're learning.

REP. REBIMBAS: Thank you.

SENATOR DOYLE: Thank you.

Any other questions?

Representative Reed?

REP. REED: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Just sort of expanding on that a bit, I mean, it sounds as if this would just be the -- the seed ingredients to create a much more aggressive, proactive marketing campaign that would lead to

advertising, belonging to New England Websites and that kind of thing. I think it would be helpful to all of us if you had some sort of dollar figures and kind of bang-for-the-buck equation so that we could really see what you think it would generate.

SENATOR MAYNARD: Sure. Yeah, no, I think that's a very, very good suggestion. Obviously we wanted to get the idea forward, put it out there, see what kind of response -- and I have to say, the response has been very heartening from -- particularly, there's an extraordinary beer -- Chris, what -- what do you -- the -- artisan -- artisan beer culture. This is an amazingly growing area.

I know in my own town and area, there have been four or five different places that have had beer dinners, you know, it -- it's a lot of good commerce for local restaurants that are in -- oftentimes held in the off season when you have, sort of, the doldrums, in the early winter or early spring. You know, there's a multiplier effect that comes out of, just a -- a higher awareness, and -- and this group is very active on the Web, is -- is, as I say the -- the Ale Street News is one outlet where you can see -- and I've -- I just happened to get a lot of e-mail recently after we proposed this bill from all over the state where people are very excited about it.

So I think the multiplier is there really to -- to benefit us, and -- and we'll try to get a better handle on -- on what the cost benefit might be.

REP. REED: Thank you, Senator Maynard.

And I want to say thank you to my constituent, Chris Sullivan, for publishing the Ale Street News.

Thank you.

SENATOR DOYLE: Thank you.

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Good afternoon, or good morning.

The 15 breweries, or brew pubs, that are listed on the proposed trail map, how were those businesses chosen to be here? Or are you -- are you part of an organization where you opted in for that? Or would there be other ones that are maybe located in the state of Connecticut that don't appear on the map?

CHRIS KEPPLER: This is the complete current list of breweries in the state. And we chose to include the brew pubs who brew beer in their restaurant and then serve their own brewed beer to their customers as well as food.

We are different entities, brew pubs and commercial breweries. There are only five commercial breweries in the state right now, meaning we do not have a restaurant and we do not serve and sell beer at our facilities. But I think this -- these are -- this is the number. It's a small number. It's a, kind of, burgeoning beer culture in the state. Our brewery's been in existence for 14 years, going on 15, and sometimes I think Connecticut is disconnected from the New England experience in the sense that we don't have a -- a celebrated beer culture, but -- we're here, hopefully inspiring a change to that.

SENATOR WITKOS: Well, thank you for taking the time to come out. It's certainly intriguing and we look forward to getting some other information. Also hear how the -- I looked on my list, I didn't see the tourism folks on here to testify, either for or against, and I'd like to hear what their feelings would be as we -- the bill progresses.

But thank you very much.

SENATOR DOYLE: Representative Tallarita.

REP. TALLARITA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, Senator. And Chris, thank you very much for your testimony. Just a couple of questions.

First of all, I think it's a great idea. I had the opportunity of going to the Old Burnside Brewery in East Hartford this past summer and saw the establishment and the history that goes along with it, and I think it's a great way to showcase Connecticut in another way like we do our wineries.

But my question to you is, would you be selling beer at these breweries while people were visiting them? Would they be able to purchase beer and take it home?

CHRIS KEPPLER: Currently under Connecticut State law, breweries are allowed to sell, up to eight liters, I believe, when we give a tour and a tasting. So we are not allowed to sell, like a package store, if you just come for a visit, but -- and not all the Connecticut breweries are engaged. It depends on their local zoning laws whether they're selling or not, but we -- the

breweries are allowed to -- and I believe that the brew pubs now are allowed to sell growlers when you come to eat at a brew pub. But when you visit a commercial brewery, if you take a tour and -- and do a tasting, which I think is under two-ounce tasting, you're allowed to buy up to the limit, the state limit, which is -- usually people buy less than that and take a sample -- or not a sample, but take a purchase home.

REP. TALLARITA: Okay, so with that, like the Connecticut wineries, would you be allowed to purchase that beer on Sundays?

CHRIS KEPPLER: I guess that's up to you guys, right?

REP. TALLARITA: Okay, because I know at the Connecticut wineries, you can purchase bottles of wine and take them home and drink them.

CHRIS KEPPLER: And we -- I mean Connecticut breweries support the small, independent package stores. Those are the stores that -- that really take care of us and represent us well in the marketplace.

It's a real challenge for the small Connecticut breweries to break into the big, box store market, the Stop and Shops and the Big Y's have a pretty heavy bureaucratic wall between getting your product from your brewery, through the distributor, in to.

So I -- I think can -- I only speak for our brewery, but we certainly support the small, local independent package stores that are sort of the heart and soul of -- of our business.

REP. TALLARITA: I --

SENATOR DOYLE: Excuse me. No disrespect, but if we could try to keep our applause to a limited, or actually no applause at all, because we have a busy day. We got to keep it going.

Representative Tallarita, want to continue?

REP. TALLARITA: Yes.

And I understand that you do support the local, small -- businessman, and I think that's great. And I think that I would love to see the expansion of your beer in those little package stores if they so choose to open on Sundays.

So thank you very -- much for your testimony.

SENATOR DOYLE: Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL: Very briefly, because I didn't understand your answer to the question posed by Representative Tallarita.

Right now, under Connecticut statute, the wineries are allowed to sell bottles of wine of they give a tour, someone visits them, even on a Sunday. Is that correct?

CHRIS KEPPLER: I'm not aware of the wineries' current limitations or abilities to sell. I believe that the farm wineries can sell a bottle of wine on Sunday, but I -- I've got to (inaudible) Vineyard and purchased a bottle there.

SENATOR KISSEL: Okay, so --

CHRIS KEPPLER: I don't -- haven't purchased one on Sunday, and I'm just not sure.

SENATOR KISSEL: All right. And about the brew pubs and the breweries, current practice right now,

and you mentioned growlers and -- I'm not quite sure, is that?

CHRIS KEPPLER: It's a -- it's a jug of beer that's recyclable, so you can bring your own glass jug to a brewery, or brew pub, not -- and -- and get it filled, take it away. That's a -- one -- I believe a one-gallon jug.

SENATOR KISSEL: And can you do that on a Sunday under current Connecticut law?

CHRIS KEPPLER: I'm not aware.

SENATOR KISSEL: You don't know one way or the other?

A VOICE: No.

CHRIS KEPPLER: We don't sell beer directly at the brewery where I work, so it's not a concern for us. I'm not -- I -- I believe the same liquor laws apply to the breweries that are selling beer in the brew pubs as to the package stores. But I'm actually truly not aware.

SENATOR KISSEL: Well, that's the area I'm trying to figure out. Maybe we'll ask another speaker, because if the wineries are allowed to sell bottles of wine on Sunday, obviously the wineries are not going along with the law that affects package stores. And I'm wondering if that carve-out actually would apply to breweries and brew pubs as well. And so maybe another speaker will have an answer to that.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR DOYLE: Thank you, Senator Kissel. I agree, I'd like to get an answer to that question.

Any other committee members have any questions for the speakers in front of us now?

Seeing none, thank you very much, gentlemen.

SENATOR MAYNARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I might suggest that -- at the date in the near future, we might assign a small committee, maybe Representative Taborsak, Representative Altobello, and we could go out on a junket and just take a look at some of these brew pubs.

SENATOR DOYLE: I'll appoint you two folks, absolutely.

SENATOR MAYNARD: Very good. Thank you.

SENATOR DOYLE: Thank you.

The next speaker is Senator Meyer. Senator -- yes, he is. Thank you.

SENATOR MEYER: Senator Doyle, Representative Taborsak, members of the General Law Committee, nice to be with you this morning.

We're going to switch the subject from beer to farm wines. And I'm here today to speak in enthusiastic support of Senate Bill 462, which would permit the sale of farm wines at farmer's markets.

The law in Connecticut is that the products that can be sold at a farmer's market are controlled by our statutes, and this bill would expand the products that could be sold at a farmer's market to include Connecticut farm wines.

Let me give you several reasons why I think this is a good direction for us. In the first place, what it does is, it supports our farms and -- and our farm wineries. It's a great increasing industry in Connecticut. It creates jobs. It's good for the economy.

Proposal to create a Connecticut Brewery Trail and a Made in Connecticut State Logo

The purpose of this bill is to promote the manufacture and sale of Ct made beer. To highlight for local area residents and visitors the unique and outstanding craft beer culture of the nutmeg state, and to identify for residents and visitors alike brews genuinely made in the state of Connecticut. The Connecticut Brewery Trail and Made in Ct logo are hoping to follow in the footsteps of the successful Ct Wine Trail and Ct Grown campaign.

This under-promoted segment of the Connecticut economy has traditionally been a tiny fraction of the states overall beer consumption. Recent growth trends in the craft beer industry across the nation and in Connecticut specifically have given encouragement to local artisanal breweries. These small breweries compete against some very large and powerful global corporations in the marketplace every day and need the support of their home state.

Last year in an economic downturn, Cottrell brewing hired another full time brewer and part time sales person and grew its sales in the state by over 30%, New England Brewing grew its sales by over 40% and is hiring two new employees, Olde Burnside grew over 20% and hired a new part time employee, Hooker Brewing is in the midst of an expansion and grew over 20% hiring 5 new employees.

Why support Ct made beer? Ct Breweries add to the unique character and culture of our state. They contribute to making the state a unique and exceptional destination for visitors and residents alike. For most New England states their beer is a matter of state pride, we should embrace this model here in Connecticut. In addition local beer is greener, cutting carbon footprints and emissions, Ct breweries ship their beer locally, using less fuel helping to keep our air cleaner and our roads less congested. Ct Breweries hire here, live here play here and inspire here, giving generously to local charities and acting as active community partners. When you purchase a Connecticut made beer in the state up to 2/3 of the money spent stays right here in the state as opposed to 1/3 when buying an imported beer. What if Ct breweries made up 5 to 10% of the beer consumed in the state in the next five years, it would certainly become an important ingredient to the states economic well being. Please support the creation of the Ct Brewery Trail and the creation of the made in Ct state logo, lets take pride in our local breweries!

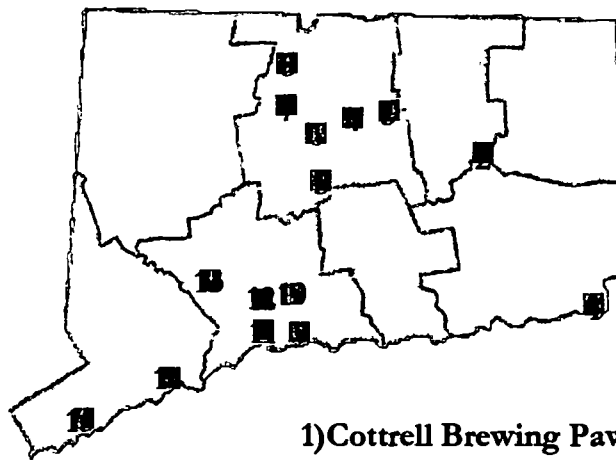
Thanks

Chris Kepple

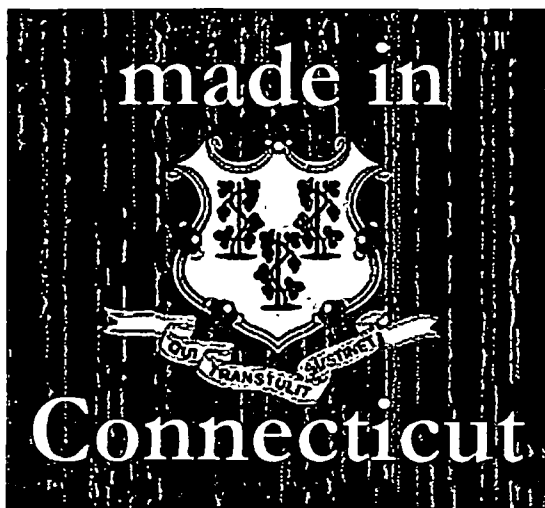
Cottrell Brewing

Pawcatuck Ct

Connecticut Brewery Trail Map



- 1) Cottrell Brewing Pawcatuck Ct
- 2) Willimantic Brewing Willimantic Ct (BP)
- 3) John Harvard's Manchester Ct (BP)
- 4) Olde Burnside East Hartford Ct
- 5) Carsons Newington (BP)
- 6) SBC Hamden (BP)
- 7) Thomas Hooker Bloomfield Ct
- 8) Cambridge House Granby Ct (BP)
- 9) SBC Branford Ct (BP)
- 10) SBC Hamden Ct (BP)
- 11) Bru Room Bar New Haven Ct (BP)
- 12) New England Brewing Woodbridge (BP)
- 13) Cavalry Brewing Oxford Ct
- 14) SBC Fairfield Ct (BP)
- 15) SBC Stamford Ct (BP)



Mr Chairman and members of the General Law Committee, thank you for holding this public hearing today. My name is Chris Sullivan, I live in Branford and I am a columnist covering the Connecticut craft brewing industry for Ale Street News. I am attending this hearing to speak in favor of SB 464 "An Act Establishing a Connecticut Beer Trail".

The State of Connecticut contains five production breweries and eleven brewpubs. These craft brewing establishments are spread around the State in various municipalities. I would like to highlight a few of these: Cambridge Brew House in Granby, Thomas Hooker Brewing in Bloomfield, Southport Brewing Company in Branford, and City Steam Brewery and Café and Hartford. I believe these establishments exist within the districts of members of this committee. There are several other brewing establishments in CT and I have included a table detailing the complete list in my submitted written comments.

Each of these brewing establishments is a local business, creating a Connecticut made product and providing jobs to Connecticut residents. In fact, the beer industry as a whole provided over 18000 jobs in Connecticut last year, this total includes all package stores and distributors. The jobs at breweries and brewpubs are a smaller subset of the total list of jobs provided. Each brewing entity must purchase and update annual manufacturing permits from the State and is also taxed on a per barrel of production basis. These revenue streams offer income to State budgets at a time when revenue can be tough to come by in Connecticut.

I believe the creation of a CT Beer Trail will give an extra boost to the brewing industry in Connecticut and will encourage others from outside the state to visit and spend money within our borders. Every year the City of Denver Colorado hosts the Great American Beer Festival and in 2005 over 28,000 people traveled to the city specifically for this event. Smaller gatherings are found at craft breweries across the country, especially at release events for specialty beers. I attended one of these events at New England Brewing in Woodbridge where scores of people were waiting in line outside the brewery to purchase a couple bottles of a one-time special release beer. Breweries in other States such as Portsmouth Brewing in New Hampshire actually must distribute pre-sale tickets to assure that attendees actually can get the beers they have come to obtain at release events.

The craft brewing industry is a growing one, with 2010 growth of 9% by volume and 12% in retail dollars. I think most industries would be happy to have ½ of those numbers. This is an industry that can and should expand within Connecticut. Creating a Beer Trail will provide that support to new and existing brewing entities. There are currently 3-4 new production facilities at various stages of planning in Connecticut.

Many other States have created beer trails to promote their craft brewing industry. Each of these states has a web presence with routed maps and directions to each brewery and often features a checklist for participants to mark off completed visits. I've included web links to the beer trail info for Maine, Vermont and New York all states in our region. With this much support in other states, Connecticut's breweries are actually at a marketing disadvantage to their regional neighbors.

Creation of a CT Beer Trail would require some printing costs for brochures to distribute at rest areas and other tourism locations, creation of a web presence, and some additional signage to direct travelers towards these brewing entities. Additional costs could be a t-shirt or pint glass or other

item that would further promote the Connecticut Brewing Industry. With the incomes and jobs generated by each of the breweries and any future additions, these minimal costs seem well worth the investment in support of local businesses.

Thank you for your time and allowing me to speak on this important issue.

Attachments

Established brewing entities in Connecticut

Brewery or Brewpub	Municipality
Willimantic Brewing Company	Willimantic
Bru Rm @ BAR	New Haven
John Harvard's Brewhouse	Manchester
New England Brewing Company	Woodbridge
Olde Burnside Brewing Company	East Hartford
Cavalry Brewing Company	Oxford
Cottrell Brewing Company	Pawcatuck
City Steam Brewer and Café	Hartford
Thomas Hooker Brewing	Bloomfield
Cambridge Brew House	Granby
Southport Brewing Company	Stamford, Southport, Milford, Hamden, Branford
Brewpub at Mohegan Sun	Uncasville

Weblinks to other State Beer Trails

<http://www.iloveny.com/brewerytrails/mapoftrails.html>

<http://brewersvt.com/passport>

<http://www.mainebrewersguild.org/BeerTrailWeb.pdf>

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**GENERAL
LAW
PART 2
370 – 743**

2011

CONNECTICUT PACKAGE STORES ASSOCIATION

p 30
ln. 8

700 PLAZA MIDDLESEX
MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457
PHONE - 860.346.7978
FAX - 860 343 0014

Executive Director
Carroll J. Hughes
Assistant Executive Director
Josh D. Hughes Esq.

SBB64

Senator Doyle, Representative Taborsak and members of the General Law Committee. The Connecticut Package Stores Association (CPSA) represents the 1,100 off-premise package store retailers in the state of Connecticut. We work to promote and protect their integral role as one of the three tiers of the alcohol beverage industry in CT. We are submitting this testimony on the following bills:

The Connecticut Package Stores Association urges that the Committee take a close look at the risk of the precedent that Proposed Bill 464 will set. We therefore urge caution when deciding on the fate of Proposed Bill 464 AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CONNECTICUT FARM WINE AT FARMERS' MARKETS.

This bill, although not yet drafted, in past years has allowed an exemption for farm wineries enabling them to sell their products away from their permit premises at farmer's markets. All other beverage alcohol retailers are required to make their sales at one permitted location and cannot utilize their permit to travel to additional towns.

Additionally, in light of the Supreme Court Granholm decision, any situation that is allowed for in-state entities must also be allowed for an out-of-state entity. Allowing an in-state winery to sell at various locations around the state might also open an opportunity for an out-of-state winery to establish retail locations throughout Connecticut without regard for an established permit premises. We also urge that a local permit be sought from local law enforcement before such permits are authorized by the Department of Consumer Protection.

We understand the importance that the farm wineries provide to Connecticut residents. However, we want to ensure that there are no loopholes which would allow abuse by out of state entities.

We want to make suggestions concerning Raised bill 6267 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE OF WINE WITH GIFT BASKETS. We support the entrepreneurial spirit and innovation that would bring additional businesses and jobs to our state, and we have, in the past, supported the increased sales opportunities of the state's brewpub and farm winery industries. We cannot support this bill as written. We offer the following issues that could cause concern amongst the tiers of the existing industry and variances in the existing laws and regulations:

- No business entity may hold more than one class of permit. For example, the holder of a package store permit may not also hold a grocery beer permit or vice versa. Therefore, it would seem that an entity that holds a grocery beer permit should be prohibited from obtaining one of these permits for their floral / gift basket department even if they were to establish their own corporate entity to do so.

H – 1120

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2011**

**VOL.54
PART 29
9635 – 9973**

pt/tj/lxe/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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June 8, 2011

Those absent and not voting 4

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Bill is passed. Clerk, please call Calendar 490.

THE CLERK:

On page 18, Calendar 490, Senate Bill Number 464,

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CONNECTICUT BEER TRAIL.

Favorable report of Committee on Transportation.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Taborsak.

REP. TABORSAK (109th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Question is on acceptance and passage. Will you remark?

REP. TABORSAK (109th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this Legislation creates a Connecticut beer trail. I'd ask that the Clerk is in possession of an amendment, LCO 5602. I'd ask that he call it and I be allowed to summarize.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

pt/tj/lxe/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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June 8, 2011

Clerk, please call LCO 5602 which is designated
House -- Senate "A".

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 5602, Senate "A", offered by Senators
Doyle and Maynard and Representative Taborsak.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Any objections to summarization? Hearing none,
Representative, you may proceed.

REP. TABORSAK (109th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this
amendment makes minor changes to language and
essentially renames a trail Connecticut Brewery Trail.
I move adoption.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Question is on adoption. Remark further?
Representative Tallarita.

REP. TALLARITA (58th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question --

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Please proceed, Representative.

REP. TALLARITA (58th):

A few questions to the proponent of the
amendment.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

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Please proceed, madam.

REP. TALLARITA (58th):

I was just wondering on this beer trail, the -- do we know how many signs are being erected to point people in the direction? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Taborsak.

REP. TABORSAK (109th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. That number has not been determined yet.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Tallarita.

REP. TALLARITA (58th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And in the establishments in which the beer trail will be pointing people, do they sell beer at those establishments? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Taborsak.

REP. TABORSAK (109th):

That is correct. Through you, Mr. Speaker, they do sell beer.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

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Representative Tallarita.

REP. TALLARITA (58th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you, Mr. Speaker, to the proponent of the amendment. Do they sell this beer on Sundays by any chance, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Taborsak.

REP. TABORSAK (109th):

They do not. I apologize, Mr. Speaker. Through you, they could. Some of these establishments could be open on Sundays because it is contemplated that some of these brewing places are restaurants and as we all know they -- they are open on Sundays some of them. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Tallarita.

REP. TALLARITA (58th):

So -- through you, Mr. Speaker. So that I can understand this better, we allow the sale of beer at some of these establishments on Sunday even though they are not -- are they restaurants or bars or are they Connecticut beer breweries? What exactly are they, and where will they exactly be selling this beer on Sundays? Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

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SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Taborsak.

REP. TABORSAK (109th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is that we have a number of breweries spread out throughout the state of Connecticut and some of them do operate as restaurant breweries, but they're all over the state. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Tallarita.

REP. TALLARITA (58th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. What -- what type of permits do -- will -- do these establishments currently hold that sell beer on Sundays? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Taborsak.

REP. TABORSAK (109th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that there is -- that they -- they possess a beer manufacturers permit. I do not have the language -- the exact language in front of me. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

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Representative Tallarita.

REP. TALLARITA (58th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the gentleman for his answers. At this time I will not be calling an amendment that I do have drawn to the bill which would allow the sale of beer -- I know.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

It's getting a little noisy. Representative Tallarita.

REP. TALLARITA (58th):

Thank you for your "ahs" I really appreciate them. But unfortunately I don't have your votes. So I just wanted to let the Chamber know that I will not be calling that amendment on this bill at this time, but I do want to caution everyone that we are slipping down a slippery slope when we allow a brewery to sell on Sunday but we will not allow a package store to do the same business. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Dillon.

REP. DILLON (92nd):

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Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question through you to the proponent of the bill.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Please proceed, madam.

REP. DILLON (92nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Concerning the subject matter of the bill, I know that there's been an issue in our own municipality concerning certain behavior of holder -- of participants in -- in clubs. Does this bear directly at all on liquor permits or the city's ability to issue liquor permits to clubs that do not control their -- the -- their customers? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Taborsak. Again, remember we're talking on Senate "A".

REP. TABORSAK (109th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. No, it does not.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Dillon.

REP. DILLON (92nd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Do you foresee a possibility given that we are expanding the ability of sales to -- to set in place some crowd controls?

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Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative. And again, remind people we're speaking -- we haven't adopted Senate "A" yet, so if people can speak to the amendment.

Representative Taborsak, do you want to answer that question? And again, Representative Dillon -- Representative Taborsak.

REP. TABORSAK (109th):

I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker. I could not understand the gentlelady.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative, do you want to wait for adoption of Senate "A", you can ask that question?

REP. DILLON (92nd):

Mr. Speaker, as a courtesy to the Chamber, I will ask the questions on the bill.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative.

REP. DILLON (92nd):

Thank you.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Candelaria, on the amendment?

REP. CANDELARIA (95th):

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No, Mr. Speaker, on the underlying bill.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Okay, would you mind -- we're doing the amendment. Remark further on the amendment? Any more -- if not, I'll try your minds, all those in favor of the amendment please signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Opposed, Nay?

REPRESENTATIVES:

No.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The Ayes have it. The amendment has been adopted. Remark further on the bill as amended?

Representative Candelaria.

REP. CANDELARIA (95th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. A couple questions to the proponent of the bill.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. CANDELARIA (95th):

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Now is -- is this actually going to be transferred through a specific --

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Candelaria.

REP. CANDELARIA (95th):

My question has been answered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Remark further? Representative Taborsak.

REP. TABORSAK (109th):

Yes, Mr. Speaker. There's another amendment, LCO 6070. I'd ask that the Clerk call it and I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 6070, I believe. Clerk, please call and -- be allowed to summarize.

THE CLERK:

LOC Number 6070, Senate "B", offered by Senator Williams, et al.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Any objection? Representative, you may proceed.

REP. TABORSAK (109th):

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Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this amendment requires Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism to submit a report in accordance with 11-4a of the General Statutes on the impact the establishment of a Connecticut Antiques Trail or trails may have on State tourism and economic health and move adoption.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Question is on adoption. Care to remark further? If not, try your minds, all those in favor, please signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Opposed, Nay? The Ayes have it. The amendment is adopted. Remark further on the bill as amended? Remark further on the bill as amended? If not, staff and guests please come to the Well of the House, members take your seats, the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call. Members to the Chamber. The House is voting by roll call. Members to the Chamber.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

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Have all the members voted? If all the members have voted, please check the roll call board to make sure your vote has been properly cast. If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked, Clerk will please take a tally. Clerk, please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 464, as amended by Senate "A" and "B", in concurrence with the Senate.

Total Number voting	146
Necessary for passage	74
Those voting Yea	141
Those voting Nay	5
Those absent and not voting	5

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Bill as amended is passed. Clerk, please call Calendar 394.

THE CLERK:

On page 14, Calendar 394, substitute for Senate Bill Number 462, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CONNECTICUT WINE AT FARMERS' MARKETS AND ESTABLISHING A FARMERS' MARKET WINE PERMIT. Favorable report of the Committee on General Law.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

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Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, Senator Doyle is providing some additional business for us, would ask that the next item called be Calendar page 37, Calendar Number 90, Senate Bill 464.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, if you'll call the -- the bill, please.

THE CLERK:

Madam President, Calendar page 37, Calendar Number 90, Senate Bill Number 464, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CONNECTICUT BEER TRAIL, Committee reports, General Law, and Transportation.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Doyle.

SENATOR DOYLE:

Thank you, Madam President.

I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Acting on approval of the bill, will you remark?

Senator Doyle.

SENATOR DOYLE:

Yes. Thank you, Madam President.

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The file copy of the bill simply kind of creates a Connecticut beer trail, and really, what it in effect does, it authorizes the DOT to post signage on our highways designating the -- the beer -- the beer trail, which really would be Connecticut-made beer, where it's manufactured and sold.

However, the Clerk has a few amendments, but I'd first like to call LCO 5602. Clerk please call and I be allowed to summarize it.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Madam President, the Clerk is in possession of LCO Number 5602, which shall be designated Senate Amendment "A," copies of which have been distributed.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Doyle.

SENATOR DOYLE:

Thank you, Madam President.

I first move adoption of the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on adoption. Will you remark?

Senator Doyle.

SENATOR DOYLE:

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Yes. Thank you, Madam President.

What this amendment does is it technically changes the name. It's not going to be the Connecticut Beer Trail, it's going to be the Connecticut Brewery Trail, and I urge the Chamber to approve this amendment.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark? Will you remark?

All those in favor, would you say, aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Those if they're opposed? The -- thanks a lot, guys. The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Senator Doyle.

SENATOR DOYLE:

Thank you, Madam President.

With the adoption of that amendment, the Clerk has another amendment, LCO 6070, the Clerk please call and I will allowed to summarize it.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

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THE CLERK:

Madam President, at the moment, I do not have possession of that amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Senator --

THE CLERK:

It has -- has just sent to the Chamber. The Clerk is in possession of LCO Number 6070, which shall be designated Senate Amendment "B."

THE CHAIR:

Senator Doyle.

SENATOR DOYLE:

Thank you, Madam President; we just made it.

I first move adoption of the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on adoption. Will you remark?

SENATOR DOYLE:

Yes.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Doyle.

SENATOR DOYLE:

Thank you, Madam President.

This amendment deals with a similar concept. It creates the -- well, I should say it establishes or

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seeks the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism to research the creation of a Connecticut antique's trail or trails and see how it would have any impact on our tourism and economic health.

This concept was raised and the public hearing was held in the Commerce Committee. In addition to the Commerce Committee, I believe Senator Kane had an interest in this bill, and I urge our -- the Chamber to adopt this amendment.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

Then all in favor, then, please say, aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed? The amendment is adopted.

Senator Witkos. Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Madam President.

On the bill as amended, you know, both of these initiatives highlight things, hidden treasures that we have in the State of Connecticut. And these are predicated on the -- the glory that the Connecticut

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Wine Trail, established wine trail has experienced over the past few years. And -- and how prevalent would it be that our breweries now may have a similar fashion, where folks that are just travelling through our state or visiting somebody, that they see the sign and they want to check it out, and they go and they visit one of our locally manufactured goods and they pass that word on? Again, it helps out with job establishments; it brings tourism dollars to our state.

And I think that the antique's trail, once this study is done and we revisit -- revisit this again next year, I know up in my neck of the woods and up in the entire northwest corner, we're well known for the -- the antiques that are often up there. And while I -- well, I'll hold that because my wife will get mad if she hears me say this -- so, with that, I think that we should adopt the amendment.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Witkos.

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

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I, too, rise in favor of the bill as amended. I want to thank Senator Doyle and his committee for bringing this forward.

We, through the Department Of Transportation, had signage erected, about a year or two ago, in Interstate 84 which designates the Connecticut Antique's Trail, but we need to go a bit further. And this study, this report I think will show how much antiques and antiquing affect the culture, the tourism, and the economic development of our state.

In my district, Woodbury -- some consider the antique's capital of the world -- and beyond, throughout my district and throughout the State of Connecticut, I believe this will go a long way for the economic development and the vitality of our state. So I, too, rise in favor of this bill.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kane.

Will you remark?

Senator Maynard.

SENATOR MAYNARD:

Yes. Thank you, Madam President.

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On the underlying bill, as the sponsor of the Connecticut Brewery Trail Bill, I -- I just want to say that this was brought forward by a -- some folks in my district who run one of the five Connecticut artisan breweries. It's a growing industry in the State of Connecticut, and it's one that I think we would do well to highlight.

As people have said before, the Connecticut Wine Trail has been a tremendous promoting influence for the Connecticut vineyard and wine industry, and for those of us who travel to other states, I know Vermont and others have done a wonderful job promoting local brewed beer products. It's a -- a growing area of fascination and interest among, particularly, a certain young group of folks that seem to be interested in learning the trade of -- of brewing. And I know several of the breweries have been growing exponentially over the last few years.

So I think it's an appropriate thing from an economic development standpoint as well as a tourism standpoint that we should support this, give every indication to visitors to our state and to people who enjoy artisan brewery products that Connecticut is -- is home to those.

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And I wholeheartedly endorse the amendment to look into adding the Connecticut Antique's Trail. As a resident of Stonington and a former antiques' dealer, I wholeheartedly support that as well and urge passage of the bill.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Maynard.

Will you remark? Will you remark further?

Senator Doyle.

SENATOR DOYLE:

Yes, Madam President.

If there's no objection, I'd refer this bill to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Are there any objections? Seeing no objection, so ordered.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, would like to mark three additional go items at -- at this time or actually five additional go items at this time, if we might. The first is Calendar page 7, Calendar 104, House

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Madam President, have an additional item to add to the Consent Calendar, that is Calendar page 17, Calendar 318, Senate Bill 152.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

And thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, if the Clerk might now call the Second Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Madam President, the Second Consent Calendar starts on page 7. It's Calendar Number 104, House Bill 6371.

And then we go to page 9, Calendar Number 187, Senate Bill Number 1053; page 12, Calendar Number 240, Senate Bill 1100; Calendar page 17, Calendar 318, Senate Bill 152; Calendar page 18, Calendar 338, House Bill 6319; Calendar page 37, Calendar 90, Senate Bill 464; Calendar page 43, Calendar 197, Senate Bill 1021; Calendar page 46, Calendar 251, Senate Bill 799.

That completes the Second Consent Calendar.

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THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

If you will announce the pendency of a vote on the Consent Calendar, sir.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is voting by roll call on the Second Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber. The Senate is voting by roll call on the Second Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

THE CHAIR:

The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is voting by roll call on the Second Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

THE CHAIR:

The machine is now open, if the Senators will kindly record your vote.

If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will kindly announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Madam President:

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Total number voting	36
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar -- the Second Consent Calendar
is now adopted.

Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

Senator Looney, you have the floor, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, that will conclude our business
for -- for today's session.

I just wanted to announce that there will be a
Democratic caucus immediately upon conclusion of the
session and that it's our intention to convene
tomorrow at noon there, as I will yield the floor for
members, for purposes of announcements of committee
meetings or points of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Are there any announcements or points of personal
privilege at this time?