

**Jill Cataldi**

---

**From:** casey charkowick <charkowick.casey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2021 1:58 PM  
**To:** House Small Business Committee  
**Subject:** H5255

**Name:** Casey M. Charkowick  
**Bill #:** H5255  
**Position:** FOR

Hello,

I am writing to express my support for H5255. The current brewery restriction on direct to consumer sales makes absolutely no sense at all. While distributors would disagree, those who are familiar with the craft brew market know that small independent breweries (i.e. Tilted Barn) cater to a very different customer than the distribution companies. H5255 would enable our brewers to compete with our New England neighbors and allow them to bring more money into Rhode Island at a time when it is sorely needed. With added sales revenue comes more jobs, further investment, and ancillary business growth. When looking to the model that Vermont has adopted, it is difficult to understand Rhode Island's position on this to date.

According to a recent report by the Vermont Brewers Association, the state's craft beer industry has an annual economic impact of approximately \$199 million and generates over 1,500 jobs. When including money stemming from craft beer tourism, that number swells to over \$270 million—more than the annual economic impact of maple syrup in Vermont (\$226 million-UVM Proctor Maple Research Center).

Rhode Island could – and should – have a thriving craft beer tourism industry and H5255 is the first step toward that end.

Sincerely,

Casey Matthew Charkowick