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**Testimony in support of H-7220**

March 14, 2024

Honorable Chairperson McEntee and the members of the House Committee on Small Business:

I am the founder and president of Eat Drink RI, one of the top media, marketing and event production companies in the region for all things culinary. As an entrepreneur and resident of Rhode Island who wants to see our state's food and drink economy thrive and expand to attract new business, I am **in favor of passage of H-7220**.

The wine business has been booming in new areas of the United States. Wineries are a burgeoning industry here in Rhode Island with over ten now in business supporting hundreds of jobs in manufacturing and hospitality. A key part of the winery revenue stream is direct sales of bottled and canned product to the consumer visiting their premises. While farm wineries have long been able to sell unlimited quantities of drinks and bottles & cans to their customers, manufacturer wineries—those that don't grow their own grapes—are unable to benefit from the same revenue stream. This bill would allow those manufacturer wineries to sell a very small quantity of product and glasses of wine, a fraction of the amount that has been allowed by farm wineries for decades without any effect on retail or bar/restaurant establishments.

Respectfully, I urge you to recommend passage of H-7220 to the full House. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Dadekian