



Connecticut Farm Bureau Association, Inc.

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February 13, 2009

Testimony in support of:

PROPOSED H. B. 5819 AN ACT ALLOWING THE PRODUCTION OF ACIDIFIED FOODS IN FARM KITCHENS

Submitted by: Steven K. Reviczky, Executive Director, Connecticut Farm Bureau Association

The following testimony is submitted on behalf of the Connecticut Farm Bureau, a statewide nonprofit membership organization of 5,000 families dedicated to farmers and the future of Connecticut agriculture.

Connecticut Farm Bureau supports Proposed H. B. 5819 An Act Allowing the Production of Acidified Foods in Farm Kitchens

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and Members of the Environment Committee:

The Connecticut Farm Bureau Association supports the intent of HB 5819 An Act Allowing the Production of Acidified Foods in Farm Kitchens. State law currently allows jams, jellies, preserves and maple syrup to be made and sold on a residential farm and requires that all other food products must be prepared in government inspected kitchens. The requirements for such kitchens are extensive and expensive. The cost of constructing and equipping such a facility is a barrier that many small farm operations cannot overcome.

The good news is that Connecticut has experienced an explosion in the interest and demand for locally grown foods. Connecticut citizens want access to healthy, safe, Connecticut Grown products. The ability of farmers to produce value-added goods is limited under current statutory provisions that limit farmers' potential for additional income.

Other states have more progressive provisions in this regard. Farm Bureau respectfully asks that the committee follow their lead and support Proposed Bill 5919, An Act Allowing the Production of Acidified Foods in Farm Kitchens.