



Connecticut Farm Bureau Association
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Testimony in Support of:

Raised Bill No. 6402 AN ACT CONCERNING THE REQUISITE NUMBER OF POULTRY FOR CERTAIN APPROVED FOOD SOURCES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH CODE

Submitted by: Donald Tuller, President, Connecticut Farm Bureau Association

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

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

We strongly support the passage of Raised Bill No. 6402.. Egg producers with fewer than 2000 chickens have been caught in regulatory limbo when they try to sell eggs to local bakeries and restaurants. Public Health Officials were telling commercial egg buyers that they could only use eggs from “approved food sources”. Substitute the word “inspected” for approved, and then consider that the Connecticut Department of Agriculture inspects flocks of over 2000 birds, and USDA steps in at 5000. This legislation would allow a smaller egg producer who wants to sell eggs to commercial customers, to request a determination by the Ct Dept of Agriculture. The Department could then determine that the farm meets the same standards, and the farmer could then sell eggs to local commercial buyers. This would probably affect a small number of producers, so it shouldn’t put an expensive new obligation on the CT Dept of Agriculture. Passage of this bill, 6402 will have a positive impact on Connecticut’s growing agricultural economy.