



Environment Committee Public Hearing Testimony  
House Bills 5309, 5310, and 5311  
January 30, 2013

Good morning Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, ranking members Senator Chapin and Representative Shaban, and other members of the Environment Committee. My name is Terry Jones and I am the Vice President of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Board of Control and a farmer. I thank you for giving me this opportunity to present testimony in support of House Bills 5309, 5310, and 5311. These bills reflect proposed language changes to CT General Statutes 22-81(c) and 22-84 for the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. I am speaking as an individual and on behalf of my Board of Control colleagues asking your approval to update these statutes.

With my family, I operate Jones Family Farms in Shelton, CT. I am a life long supporter of the work of the Experiment Station and its contributions to the economic viability of Connecticut agriculture and the public health of our state's citizens.

In fact, the selfless dedication of Station scientists is so inspiring to us, our family recently established a \$50,000 dedicated fund with the Valley Community Foundation to help support the work of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

In his testimony this morning, Dr. Kirby Stafford has effectively outlined the proposed statutory changes effected by these three bills. These changes have been thoughtfully crafted. They were reviewed and endorsed at our January 2013 meeting of the Station's Board of Control.

In our emerging age of globalization, the premises of HB-5309 and HB-5311 are of increasing importance in order to protect our Connecticut forests, forest-related enterprises, and our important plant-related industries.

Regarding HB-5310, in this time of fiscal constraints, we can best steward our public dollars by having thoughtful protocols to prioritize State funds for testing and analysis of food and water.

Thank you for allowing me to comment and I would be happy to answer any questions.

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