



Connecticut Farm Bureau Association
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February 15, 2013

Testimony in Support of:

H.B. No. 6313 AN ACT CONCERNING LOCALLY GROWN POULTRY IN CONNECTICUT FOOD MARKETS.

H.B. No. 6314 AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN REVISIONS TO THE COMMUNITY FARMS PROGRAM.

H.B. No. 6316 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION.

H.B. No. 6317 AN ACT CONCERNING REGISTRATION OF GROWERS OF SWINE AND THE CONTROL OF CERTAIN DISEASES.

H.B. No. 6318 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CULTIVATION OF SEAWEED.

S.B. No. 802 AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S EGG STATUTES.

S.B. No. 803 AN ACT CONCERNING AQUACULTURE JOB GROWTH.

S.B. No. 804 AN ACT CONCERNING A PREFERENCE FOR CONNECTICUT GROWN PROTEIN IN CERTAIN STATE CONTRACTS.

S.B. No. 805 AN ACT CONCERNING THE TAKING OF EASTERN OYSTERS.

S.B. No. 806 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MUNICIPAL PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION.

Submitted by: Henry N. Talmage, Executive Director, 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 Gentile and Members of the Environment Committee:

H.B. No. 6313 AN ACT CONCERNING LOCALLY GROWN POULTRY IN CONNECTICUT FOOD MARKETS.

Connecticut Farm Bureau Association supports H.B. 6313 as an expansion of PA 10-103 to add retail food markets as an approved food source. This is the logical next step following passage of the Farms, Food and Jobs bill of 2010 which established a program for CT grown, processed and inspected poultry to be sold by farmers at their farms, farmers markets, restaurants and boarding houses. This bill will allow Connecticut poultry producers to also sell fresh Connecticut poultry to retail food establishments and thereby provide Connecticut consumers with additional access to fresh Connecticut grown poultry. Initiatives such as this

help build Connecticut farm based businesses while increasing the quality and quantity of Connecticut grown products..

H.B. No. 6314 AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN REVISIONS TO THE COMMUNITY FARMS PROGRAM.

Connecticut Farm Bureau Association supports H.B. 6314 to align the program rules of Community Farms Program with those of the main Farmland Preservation Program. This program alignment will aid the state of Connecticut in purchasing the development rights under the Community Farms Program.

H.B. No. 6316 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION.

Connecticut Farm Bureau Association supports H.B. 6316 to allow for the state of Connecticut to partner with a municipality on the purchase of the development rights on a farm when the boundaries of the farm expand into an abutting municipality. Because of the size and configuration of municipalities in CT, it is common for farms to cross town lines. This will provide a mechanism to protect the entire farms irrespective of municipal boundaries.

S.B. No. 806 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MUNICIPAL PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION.

Connecticut Farm Bureau Association supports S.B. 806 to allow municipalities to purchase the owner's rights to construct residences on agricultural land and to align the statutes regarding municipal purchase of development rights with the joint ownership statutes of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture. This would allow municipalities and landowners to configure projects that do not contain provisions for residents and compensate owners for the value of the building right if both parties agree.

H.B. No. 6317 AN ACT CONCERNING REGISTRATION OF GROWERS OF SWINE AND THE CONTROL OF CERTAIN DISEASES.

Connecticut Farm Bureau Association supports H.B. 6317 to reinstate the statutes granting power to the Commissioner of Agriculture to regulate all aspects of swine production and the control of swine related diseases. This is important to insure healthy swine production in the state of Connecticut.

H.B. No. 6318 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CULTIVATION OF SEAWEED.

Connecticut Farm Bureau Association supports H.B. 6318 which will assist in expanding Connecticut's aquaculture industry and provide a mechanism to capitalize on a potentially important agricultural opportunity.

S.B. No. 802 AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S EGG STATUTES.

Connecticut Farm Bureau Association supports S.B. 802 which will assist in clarifying state agency jurisdiction over the regulation of egg production, processing and distribution and the exemption for egg producers who sell directly to consumers.

S.B. No. 803 AN ACT CONCERNING AQUACULTURE JOB GROWTH.

Connecticut Farm Bureau Association supports S.B. 803 which will provide smaller, new companies access to Connecticut's shellfish beds thereby contributing to the expansion and diversity of the Connecticut aquaculture industry.

S.B. No. 804 AN ACT CONCERNING A PREFERENCE FOR CONNECTICUT GROWN PROTEIN IN CERTAIN STATE CONTRACTS.

Connecticut Farm Bureau Association supports S.B. 804 to allow for Connecticut Grown beef, pork and lamb to be considered in state food procurement contracts. This initiative will help expand markets for Connecticut livestock producers and provide greater opportunities to meet the demand for CT Grown meats.

S.B. No. 805 AN ACT CONCERNING THE TAKING OF EASTERN OYSTERS.

Connecticut Farm Bureau Association supports S.B. 805 which would remove the current size restriction on Connecticut Grown oysters thereby creating new market opportunities for Connecticut shellfish producers by allowing them to provide oysters sized to meet market preferences.