



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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**Testimony presented to the Environment Committee of**

**The Connecticut General Assembly**

**By the Connecticut Department of Agriculture**

**February 11, 2013**

## **H.B. 6313 - AN ACT CONCERNING LOCALLY GROWN POULTRY IN CONNECTICUT FOOD MARKETS**

**Chairmen Meyer and Gentile, Vice Chairs Maynard and Albis, Ranking Members Chapin and Shaban and members of the Environment Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today.**

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture supports the passage of H.B. 6313, which will expand markets for Connecticut farms that grow, slaughter, process, and sell poultry.

The Department of Agriculture conversed with the Departments of Consumer Protection and Public Health to craft this legislation to modify Section 4 of Public Act 10-103 (codified as CGS Section 22-326t), which established the Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Small Poultry Processing Inspection Program.

Currently poultry in this program may only be sold by the farm that raises and processes the poultry, and may only be sold directly to consumers, restaurants, or boarding houses. This bill will enable the producing farm to sell poultry in the program to retailers, who in turn will be allowed to sell it to consumers.

The Department of Agriculture's Small Poultry Processing Inspection Program takes advantage of certain limited exemptions to the Federal Poultry Products Inspection Act. These exemptions allow small poultry processors to sell product intrastate, exempt from traditional continuous inspection by a USDA inspector. However, small poultry processors still must meet all the applicable federal regulations concerning sanitation, facility design, equipment design and construction, and implementation of a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) system to control foodborne hazards. The agency's Small Poultry Processor Inspection Program enforces these standards.

Presently there are two Connecticut poultry producers participating in this program, with several others in various stages of construction to meet program requirements and/or considering participating. The Department of Agriculture expects that expanding sales to include retail outlets will encourage more of the state's small poultry farms to participate. With expanded

markets and demand for their products, these farms will likely increase production, which will create new jobs and stimulate the economy.

In addition, the bill will increase the supply of Connecticut Grown poultry available to consumers in supermarkets and retail food stores. While farmers' markets have certainly become more popular and abundant in recent years, most Connecticut consumers still buy the vast majority of their food in supermarkets and other retail stores. This bill will make it easier for consumers to buy Connecticut Grown poultry.

This, in turn, will help meet the state's goal of increasing the percentage of consumer dollars spent on Connecticut Grown farm products to not less than 5% of those consumers' food dollars (Public Act 11-189), and will help stimulate agricultural and economic growth in the state.

**Thank you for your time today and for your thoughtful consideration of this testimony. Please let us know if we can provide any additional information that would be helpful.**