



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Commissioner



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Commissioner

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Raised Senate Bill 106, An Act Concerning the Sale of "Connecticut Grown" Products

Good morning Chairmen Kennedy, Miner, and Demicco and Ranking Member Harding,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Raised Senate Bill 106, *An Act Concerning the Sale of "Connecticut Grown" Products*. This bill was raised at the request of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture wholeheartedly supports Raised Bill 106.

Schools and school districts seeking Connecticut Grown farm products to serve in their cafeterias and other meal programs often purchase such products through wholesale distributors, rather than directly from the farm producing the items. As a result, it can be more challenging to identify the farm of origin.

At best, this makes it more difficult for farms to connect the students eating the food with the farms that produced the food, thereby failing one objective of farm-to-school programming. At worst, it opens the door for products grown or raised in other states to be comingled with actual Connecticut Grown products, thus diminishing the value to Connecticut's hard-working farm families and to the state's economy.

Raised Bill 106 helps to address both challenges by requiring the seller of products sold as Connecticut Grown to identify the source. This is a winning strategy for Connecticut's school children, Connecticut's farm families, and for Connecticut's bottom line.