

PA 11-189

HB5508

Environment	1104, 1128, 1132, 1408-1409, 1425-1427	8
House	6237-6240	4
<u>Senate</u>	<u>7167, 7176-7178, 7182-7183</u>	<u>6</u>
		18

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**ENVIRONMENT
PART 4
1015 – 1370**

2011

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djp/rgd ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

February 23, 2011
11:00 A.M.

Thanks.

REP. ROY: Thank you. Just in case any of you are wondering there are more members of the Committee than the two of us and I'm sure as the sun rises, so will they. So, with that our first speaker will be Steve Reviczky, Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture who will be followed by Senator Kelly.

STEVE REVICZKY: Good morning, Chairman Meyer and Chairman Roy. I am Steven Reviczky and I serve as the Commissioner of Agriculture. It is my pleasure to be here this morning to share my thoughts on a wide range of agricultural related proposals. In the interest of brevity, it is my intention to offer a brief synopsis on each bill and then offer myself for any questions that you might have.

First, the Department is in favor of House Bill 5508, AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

Presently the council is comprised of 30 members and is supposed to meet once a year. In fact, the council hasn't met in quite some time and we think it would be a good idea to get that council back up and functioning. This legislation reduces the number of members to 15 and increases the number of meetings required under the law from one to four. It requires the council to focus on recommendations increasing the percentage of consumer dollars spent on Connecticut products. The intention is to make the council a more effective group that can concentrate on matters that grow Connecticut agriculture and improve the viability of Connecticut's farms.

The Department supports the concept of House

HB6402
SB992
SB993
SB994
SB207
HB5368

owners of the property to pay the costs of remediation and it doesn't discriminate between prior owners and present owners. A present owner did not cause the contamination under that federal law is liable as well as prior owners. So, I think that's something that you need to look at.

DON ROLLING: To look at. Okay. Thanks.

REP. ROY: Thank you. Thank you, Don. Okay. We will now move on to the public portion of the hearing. I will remind Committee members that we are here to gather information and when you discuss something, please do it in the forms of questions so we get those answers. Your opinion of a certain bill doesn't mean a whole lot today. That will come when we have the meetings and the JF meetings -- JF work in the next month. So, to help the process, please hold your opinions as much as possible. Having said that, we will move onto item two, since no one signed up for item one. The first speaker will be Don Tuller and followed by Ben Bowell.

DON TULLER: Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, I'm Don Tuller, President of Connecticut Farm Bureau. We submitted testimony on a number of bills. I'm going to just touch the highlights on a few.

Committee Bill 5508, AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT, a good change for the Committee, a good mission for the group. We support that.

Raised Bill 6402, AN ACT CONCERNING A REQUISITE NUMBER OF POULTRY FOR CERTAIN APPROVED FOOD SOURCES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH CODE, this is a good strategy to try to correct a kind of catch 22 that the smaller

SB246
SB207

critical mass of agricultural food production.

SENATOR MAYNARD: Thank you, Representative. Any further questions or comments by the Committee? Thanks, Don. Appreciate it. Our next witness is Ben Howell.

Good morning, Ben.

BEN BOWELL: Good morning, thank you. Members of the Committee, thank you very much for the opportunity to testify before you today. I am Ben Howell. I'm the project director of the Working Lands Alliance. We are a state-wide coalition of individuals, businesses and organization focused on protecting Connecticut's farmlands. My comments will focus on three bills, so I'm going to try to go fast.

First, House Bill 5508, AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT. The Working Lands Alliance believes the revitalized council for agriculture development would serve as an important advocate for growing agriculture in Connecticut. It would provide an opportunity for representatives across the spectrum of Connecticut agriculture to collaborate and identify common goals. Public demand for local food and farm products is remarkably high. However, consumers spend a small portion of total expenditures on Connecticut grown products. The council could help farmers in the state to seize the current opportunity and identify policy changes and new initiatives to keep it growing.

Second, Senate Bill 207, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE INCLUSION OF NURSERIES AND GREENHOUSES IN FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAMS. Nursery and Greenhouse farms comprise a very important

HB5376

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**ENVIRONMENT
PART 5
1371 – 1695**

2011



Working Lands Alliance
A Project of American Farmland Trust

Date: February 23, 2011

To: Environment Committee

Testimony in Support of: **HLB. 5508: AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Submitted by: Ben Bowell, Acting Project Director, Working Lands Alliance

The following testimony is submitted on behalf of the Working Lands Alliance, a statewide coalition of caring individuals and more than 200 organizations and businesses working together to raise awareness of the need and importance of saving Connecticut's valuable and vanishing farmland.

The Working Lands Alliance is supportive of revitalizing the Governor's Council for Agricultural Development which could look broadly at opportunities for agriculture in Connecticut and provide guidance to the Department of Agriculture.

A standing Council could serve as an advocate for farming in the state and provide an opportunity for representatives across the spectrum of Connecticut agriculture to collaborate and identify common goals.

Public interest in and demand for local food and farm products is remarkably high. However, consumers spend a small portion of total expenditures on Connecticut grown products. The Council for Agricultural Development could help farmers in the state to seize the current opportunity and gather momentum to identify policy changes and new initiatives to Keep it Growing.

Connecticut agriculture is a \$3.5 billion industry with other 20,000 jobs. A revitalized Council could recommend ways to grow the state's agricultural economy over the next 10 years.

Connecticut residents spend an estimated \$13.75 billion on fresh, prepared, and processed food from supermarkets, restaurants, and other sources, less than 1% of which is spent on locally grown food.¹ The Council could identify obstacles and make recommendations to significantly increase the share of food dollars spent by Connecticut residents on locally grown products to 5% by 2020.

CT wood products contribute \$500 million to the state's economy as well as 3,600 jobs. Policy changes and new initiatives could be identified to increase the share of wood product dollars spent on CT-grown products. Nurseries, greenhouses, flowers and

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Christmas trees account for annual sales of \$1.1 billion. The Council could examine policy changes and strategies needed to grow this sector.

WLA believes a revitalized Council for Agricultural Development would serve as an important advocate for growing agriculture in Connecticut. Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee on this issue.

¹ 2009 Per Capita Food Expenditures (\$3,929) x population of Connecticut = \$13.75 billion; USDA Food CPI and Expenditures, Table 13. USDA 2007 Agriculture Census market value of agricultural products is \$551 million minus tobacco, horses, Christmas trees, and non-food nursery = \$98 million, or .72% of total food purchases.



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February 22, 2011

Testimony in Support of:

**Committee Bill No. 5508 AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNORS COUNCIL FOR
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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 Meyer, and Members of the Environment Committee:

We support the changes to the Governor's Council for Agricultural Development, proposed in Committee Bill 5508. We support the mission of raising the amount of locally produced food consumed by the residents of Connecticut, and reducing the size of the group probably isn't a bad idea either.

Testimony presented to the Environment Committee of
The Connecticut General Assembly
By the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture
Steven K. Reviczky
2/23/11

H.B. 5508 AAC THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT

H.B. 6402 AAC THE REQUISITE NUMBER OF POULTRY FOR CERTAIN
APPROVED FOOD SOURCES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH CODE

S.B. 992 AAC CONNECTICUT WINE FESTIVALS

S.B. 993 AAC FAIR ADVERTISING FOR CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL
TOURISM

S.B. 994 AA AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CONNECTICUT WINE AT
FARMERS' MARKETS AND ESTABLISHING A FARMERS' MARKET WINE
PERMIT

S.B. 207 AA AUTHORIZING THE INCLUSION OF NURSERIES AND
GREENHOUSES IN FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAMS

H. B. 5368 AA EXTENDING CERTAIN PET SHOP LICENSEE
REQUIREMENTS TO PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT IMPORT
ANIMALS FOR ADOPTION

Good morning Chairman Meyer, Chairman Roy, Vice Chairs Maynard and Davis, Ranking Members Roraback and Chapin and distinguished members of the Environment Committee. My name is Steve Reviczky and I serve as Connecticut's Commissioner of Agriculture. It is a pleasure to be here this morning to share my thoughts on a wide range of Agriculture related proposals. In the interest of brevity it is my intention to offer a brief synopsis of thought on each bill and then make myself available for questions by the Committee and of course stay as long as the Committee requires.

The Department is in favor of H.B. 5508, An Act Concerning the Governor's Council for Agricultural Development. Presently the Council is comprised of thirty members and meets once a year. The legislation reduces the number of members to fifteen and increases the number of meetings to four and requires the Council to focus on recommendations increasing the percentage of consumer dollars spent on Connecticut grown products. The intention is to make the Council a more effective group that can then concentrate on matters that grow Connecticut agriculture and improve the viability of our farms.

The Department supports the concept of H.B. 6402, An Act Concerning the Requisite Number of Poultry for Certain Approved Food Sources Under the Public Health Code with a few minor caveats. The intention of the bill is to enable farmers with fewer than five hundred birds to be approved food sources for food service establishments in the state. How wonderful would it be to enjoy fresh eggs at your local diner from a farm right around the corner or right down the road? As I'm sure you are aware, it is a very exciting time for Connecticut agriculture.

Consumers are demanding more locally grown food as never before. For obvious reasons keeping the source of the food and the consumer of the food as close as possible produces a number of societal benefits; freshness of product and diminished energy consumption among them. The bill states that a "... food service establishment... may purchase shell eggs from unregulated sources... provided such shell eggs... otherwise meet the same standards as those shell eggs from commercial, regulated sources inspected according to federal and state law, and... are received

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
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Have all the Members voted? Have all the Members voted? If so, the machine will be locked. The Clerk will take a tally and the Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

On House Bill 6341 as amended by House "A".

Total Number Voting	148
Necessary for Passage	75
Those voting Yea	133
Those voting Nay	15
Those absent and not voting	3

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The Bill as amended is passed.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 246.

THE CLERK:

On Page 39, Calendar 246, Substitute for House Bill 5508 AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. Favorable Report by the Committee on Government Administration and Elections.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The distinguished Chairman of the Environment Committee, Representative Roy.

REP. ROY (119th):

pat/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 1, 2011

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The question is on acceptance and passage. Will you explain the Bill please, sir.

REP. ROY (119th):

Essentially, Mr. Speaker, this is a streamlining Bill. We are taking the Governor's Council for Agricultural Development and moving from 30 members to 15.

They will meet more often and they will accomplish more --

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Roy, just suspend for a moment. We need to get this information up on the board.

REP. ROY (119th):

I didn't need that, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

There we go. Please proceed, sir. Sorry.

REP. ROY (119th):

Excuse me. The Council advises the Agriculture Department on development diversification and promotion of agricultural products and to get more people to spend their

pat/gbr
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June 1, 2011

money on our products here at home with the hope that within a few years we'll be spending at least five percent.

Z move passage.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir. Representative Chapin.

REP. CHAPIN (67th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of the Bill before us. This Council's been around for a number of years, but it's been relatively inactive. The membership is proposed to be reduced and hopefully the change in direction, as well as the change in membership will make it become a little more active and these recommendations will go a long way to encouraging and enhancing agriculture in the State of Connecticut.

I urge my colleagues to support it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further on the Bill?
Will you remark further on the Bill?

If not, staff and guests please come to the Well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by Roll Call.

Members to the Chamber.

The House is taking a Roll Call Vote. Members to the Chamber, please.

Have all Members voted? Have all Members voted? If so, the machine will be locked. The Clerk will take a tally and the Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5508.

Total Number Voting	148
Necessary for Passage	75
Those voting Yea	148
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	3

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The Bill is passed.

Are there any introductions? The distinguished Deputy Speaker, Representative Linda Orange.

REP. ORANGE (48th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, good evening to you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Good evening, ma'am.

REP. ORANGE (48th):

A point of introduction, please.

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2011**

**VOL. 54
PART 22
6915-7208**

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SENATE

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June 8, 2011

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Continuing on Calendar page 15, Calendar 595,
House Bill 5263; Madam President, move to place this
item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Also Calendar page 15, Calendar 594, House Bill
5508; Madam President, move to place the item on the
Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Moving now, Madam President, to Calendar page 16,
Calendar 606, House Bill 6581; Madam President, move
to place the item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

Madam President, the items placed on the first Consent Calendar begin on Calendar page 10, Calendar Number 478, House Bill 6488; Calendar 480, House Bill 5256.

Calendar page 11, Calendar 513, substitute for House Bill 6557.

Calendar page 12, Calendar Number 535, substitute for House Bill 6226; Calendar 555, House Bill 6259.

Calendar page 13, Calendar 560, substitute for House Bill 5368; Calendar 567, substitute for House Bill 6157.

Calendar page 14, Calendar 574, substitute for House Bill 6410; Calendar 578, House Bill 6156.

Calendar page 15, Calendar 591, House Bill 6263; Calendar 594, substitute for House Bill 5508; Calendar 595, substitute for House Bill 62 -- 5263.

Calendar page 16, Calendar Number 606, substitute for House Bill 6581; Calendar 609, substitute for House Bill 6501.

Calendar page 17, Calendar 610, substitute for House Bill 6224; Calendar 613, substitute for House Bill 6453.

Calendar page 18, Calendar 614, substitute for House Bill 5068; Calendar 628, substitute for House Bill 5008; Calendars 633, House Bill 6489.

Calendar page 19, Calendar 635, substitute for House Bill 6351; Calendar 640, House Bills, 6559.

Calendar page 20, Calendar 642; House Bill 6595.

Calendar page 21, Calendar 645, substitute for House Bill 6267; Calendar 648, substitute for House Bill 5326; Calendar 650, substitute for House Bill 6344.

Calendar page 22, Calendar 651, substitute for House Bill 6540.

Calendar page 23, Calendar Number 655, substitute for House Bill 6497; Calendar 657, substitute for House Bill 6262; Calendar 658, House Bill 6364; Calendar 659, House Bill 5489.

Calendar page 24, Calendar 660, substitute for House Bill 6449.

Calendar page 36 -- correction -- Calendar page 33, Calendar Number 390, substitute for Senate Bill 1181.

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Calendar page 36, Calendar Number 481, House Bill 5472.

Calendar page 37, Calendar Number 584, substitute for House Joint Resolution Number 34; Calendar 585, substitute for House Joint Resolution Number 54; Calendar 586, House Joint Resolution Number 65, Calendar 587, House Joint Resolution Number 66.

Calendar page 38, Calendar 588, House Joint Resolution Number 80; Calendar 589, House Joint Resolution Number 63; Calendar 590, House Joint Resolution Number 35; Calendar 620, substitute for House Joint Resolution Number 45.

Calendar page 39, Calendar Number 621, substitute for House Joint Resolution Number 47; Calendar 622, House Joint Resolution Number 68; Calendar 623, substitute for House Joint Resolution Number 69; Calendar 624, substitute for House Joint Resolution Number 73.

Calendar page 40, Calendar 625, substitute for House Joint Resolution Number 81; Calendar 626, House Joint Resolution Number 84.

Madam President, I believe that completes the items placed on Consent Calendar Number 1.

THE CHAIR:

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June 8, 2011

Thank you.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, please call for a roll call vote, and the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is now voting by roll call on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber. The Senate is now voting by roll call on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gomes?

If all members have voted; all members have voted? The machine shall be locked.

And, Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on adoption of Consent Calendar
Number 1.

Total number voting	36
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0

Those absent and not voting 0

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar passes.

The Senate will stand at ease for a moment.

(Chamber at ease.)

SENATOR LOONEY:

Madam President?

THE CHAIR:

Yes, Senator.

The Senate will come to order.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes. Madam President, the Clerk is in possession of Senate Agenda Number 5 for today's session.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Madam President, the Clerk is in possession of Senate Agenda Number 5, dated Wednesday, June 8, 2011.

Copies have been made available.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.