

PA13-38

HB6313

Environment	93-95, 117-118, 123, 125, 166-167, 170-171	11
House	1259-1263	5
Senate	2447-2448, 2495-2496	4
		20

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**ENVIRONMENT
PART 1
1 – 305**

**2013
INDEX**

CHAIRMEN: Senator Meyer
Representative Gentile

MEMBERS PRESENT:

SENATORS: Chapin, Maynard

REPRESENTATIVES:

Albis, Shaban, Case,
Backer, Bolinsky, Bowles,
Buck-Taylor, Davis,
Hennessy, Megna,
P.Miller, C. Miner, Mushinsky,
O'Dea, Ryan, Sampson, Sear,
Urban, Vicino, Wilis, Ziobron

SENATOR MEYER: Ladies and gentlemen. Can we come to order please? This is the Public Hearing of the Environment Committee. We have some 11 bills we're going to hear today. We thank your -- we thank you for your interest. Commissioner Reviczky you're lead off here. Nice to see you.

COMMISSIONER STEVEN K. REVICZKY: Good morning Chairman Gentile, Chairman Meyer, Vice-Chair Albis and ranking member Chapin. My name is Steve Reviczky. And I serve as Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture. I am here to testify on the Department's 2013 legislative agenda. Joining me this morning from the Department of Agriculture are George Kribda who serves as our Legislative Program Manager and Public Information Officer. Steve Anderson and Linda Petrowitz from the Office of the Commissioner, and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Bruce Sherman, Director and Wane Cosegic Assistant Director of the Bureau of Regulation and Inspection.

Also joining me is David Carey, Director of the Bureau of Aquaculture and Jay Dipple who

HB6313
HB6314
HB6316
SB806
SB804
HB6315
HB6317
SB802
HB6318
SB803
SB805

is the Director of the Bureau of Agricultural Development and Resource Preservation. Last but not least, I am also joined by Jason Bowsna who is a recent addition to my staff.

SENATOR MEYER: And well known to us. Thank you, Jason.

COMMISSIONER STEVEN K. REVICZKY: Our legislative package is robust this year. And I want to thank you in advance for your time and thoughtful consideration of our request. Let me begin with House Bill 6313, An Act Concerning Locally Grown Poultry in Connecticut Food Markets. In 2010, the legislature passed the Farms Food and Jobs Bill. One component of that bill allowed Connecticut grown poultry to be served in hotels, restaurants and boarding houses. This proposal will add retail food markets and as an approved food source under the statute.

Poultry producers must continue to meet the requirements of the Federal Poultry Products Inspection Act. And any applicable provision of the Code of Federal Regulations as well as continue to meet the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service Standards for exempt operations.

The Department of Agriculture Small Poultry Processing Inspection Program takes advantage of certain limited exemptions to the Federal Poultry Products Inspections Act. These exemptions allow small poultry processors to sell product intra-state, 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 plant, or HACCP, system to control food borne 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 at various stages of construction to meet program requirements and or considering participation in the program. 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 local economy.

We have three proposals that make technical changes to the Farmland Preservation Program. House Bill 6314, An Act Concerning Certain Revisions to the Community Farms Program. House Bill 6316, An Act Concerning the State Purchase of Development Rights for Agricultural Land Preservation. And Senate Bill 806, An Act Concerning the Municipal Purchase of Development Rights for Agricultural Land Preservation.

The first proposal, House Bill 6314 brings our community farms program into conformity with the main Farmland Preservation Program. Even though both programs appear in the same chapter of the statutes, the Community Farms Statute does not include the same specific authorities that are spelled out for the Farmland Preservation Program. In order for the department to work both programs effectively and smoothly and to work effectively with municipal partners, the language of each program should mirror the

SENATOR MEYER: Okay. Our next witness is Henry Talmage of the Farm Bureau.

Good morning, Henry.

HENRY TALMAGE: Good morning, Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, Senator Chapin, Representative Albis and members of the Committee. My name is Henry Talmage, the Executive Director of the Connecticut Farm Bureau. I come before you today to speak in support of ten different bills. I'm going to group -- you have my written testimony. Farm Bureau represents 5,000 farming families in Connecticut from all types of agriculture, large, small across the state in all different categories.

I think what I'd like to do following the Commissioner's explanation of these bills is kind of group them together in three logical categories as I will. First would be economic development, egg, job growth and expansion opportunity with regard to market expansion. I also -- I co-chair the Governor's council in egg -- egg development. And work closely with the Commissioner and the rest of the commission on this. And the idea here is to grow our agricultural sector.

So, House Bill 613, An Act Concerning Locally Grown Poultry in Connecticut Food Markets. House Bill 6318, An Act Concerning the Cultivation of Seaweed. Senate Bill 803, An Act Concerning Aquaculture Job Growth. Senate Bill 804, An Act Concerning Preference for Connecticut Grown Protein in Certain State Contracts. And Senate Bill 805, Am Act Concerning the Taking of Easter Oysters.

From our perspective all of these have a

SB6313
HB6314
HB6316
SB806
HB6317
SB802

component to them that's a business development component for agriculture. And in -- each in their own way, as the Commissioner laid out, represent opportunity -- new opportunity and expansion of opportunity. We think that is critically important as we look to regain competitiveness and bolster our agricultural markets.

The next set of, kind of, categories here is House Bill 613 -- 6314, An Act Concerning Certain Revisions to the Community Farms Program. House Bill 6316, An Act Concerning the State Purchase of Development Rights for Agricultural Land Preservation. And Senate Bill 806, An Act Concerning the Municipal Purchase of Development Rights for Agricultural Land Preservation.

Those are really streamlining the process of farmland preservation. Aligning the programs to make sure they work at their peak efficiency. I have a fair amount of experience having run the Connecticut Farmland Trust for five years. Knowing and working with both the state purchase of Development Rights Program and the Federal Farmland Ranch and Protection Program.

That these deals are complicated and especially as municipalities are getting increasingly involved. We need to be able to make sure our programs are simple and aligned enough so that we could take advantage of the goals of all of these municipalities, different level of government and the land owners themselves. And I think this does some important work in that direction.

And then finally, the two bills, House Bill 6317, An Act Concerning Registration of Growers of Swine and Control of Certain

Thanks, Henry.

HENRY TALMAGE: Thank you very much.

SENATOR MEYER: Nice to see you.

Our next witness is Kip Kolesinskas. Am I getting that right?

KIP KOLESINSKAS: Yes. That's very good thank you.

SENATOR MEYER: Working Lands Alliance.

KIP KOLESINSKAS: Yes. Again, name is Kip Kolesinskas and I'm on the steering committee and speaking on behalf of the Working Lands Alliance. Dear Senator, Representative and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to speak in support of three bills that aim to improve the state's farmland preservation and community farms programs.

If enacted, these changes will facilitate and expand the state's capacity currently protecting farmland. The Working Lands Alliance is a broad based coalition dedicated to saving Connecticut farmland. Our 200 plus members reflect the diversity of organizations, businesses and individuals that care deeply about our lands and the farmers who steward them and the farms that grow our economy and jobs, provide our foods, filter our water and air. And make our community a special place to live and visit.

WLA supports the three bills 806, 6314 and 6316 on today's calendar that relates to farmland protection and our priorities of the state's Department of Agriculture. Bill 806 clarifies existing law with regards to municipal purchased development rights. Local

SB804
HB6313

administration in those situations where land crosses town boundaries.

These three bills offer small but important improvements to the state's Farmland Preservation and Community Farm Programs and we urge the Committee to act favorably on them. I would like to take a minute to also express support for 804 and 6313. These two measures would open new markets for Connecticut's poultry and livestock producers.

And have the potential to improve profitability for the farms that steward a majority of Connecticut's farmland. I appreciate this opportunity to testify. And urge the Committee to act promptly and favorably on these bills.

Thank you.

SENATOR MEYER: Thank you.

Any questions?

Representative. Yes.

REP. BOWLES: Thank you. I appreciate that Chair.

Could you briefly go ahead and provide the distinction between the Community Farms Program and the -- and the -- in terms of -- is there an acreage difference?

HB6314

KIP KOLESINSKAS: There is. Of course, at -- there's certainly as Henry Talmage mentioned, the original purpose of the -- of the state Farmland Preservation Program was keying in on larger farms. So there is a -- a 30 acre minimum of active prime and important farmland. And so one of the major differences between that and the Community Farms Program



Steven K. Reviczky
Commissioner

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER



Tel: (860) 713-2500
Fax: (860) 713-2514

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.



Connecticut Farm Bureau Association
 775 Bloomfield Ave., Windsor, CT 06095-2322
 (860) 768-1100 • Fax (860) 768-1108 • www.cfba.org

pg 2

1

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.

H - 1153

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VOL.56
PART 4
1026 - 1360**

honorable family man, and I strongly support him.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Thank you, Representative.

Will you remark further? Would you care to
remark further on the resolution before us?

If not, let me try your minds. All those in
favor of the resolution, please signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

All those opposed, Nay.

The Ayes have it and the resolution is adopted.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 75.

THE CLERK:

Yes, Madam Speaker.

On Page 8 of the Calendar, Calendar Number 75,
House Bill Number 6313, Favorable Report of the joint
standing Committee on the Environment, AN ACT
CONCERNING LOCALLY GROWN POULTRY IN CONNECTICUT FOOD
MARKETS.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Gentile.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Good morning, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I move for acceptance of the joint committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

The question is acceptance of the joint committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

Representative Gentile, you have the floor.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Thank you.

Madam Speaker, this bill enables farms and processors, currently operating under the Department of Agriculture's Small Poultry Processing Inspection Program to sell to retailers. These small producers, operating under exemptions to the federal Poultry Products Inspection Act can currently sell to household consumers and restaurants. By expanding the potential sales for producers of less than 20,000 poultry, it is expected that the state will improve access to local food options for consumers and increase production in agricultural jobs in the state.

Madam Speaker, I move for a passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Thank you, Representative.

Will you remark further on this bill?

Representative Shaban, of the 135th.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I rise in support of the bill. As stated by the good Chairwoman, it was passed through committee with universal support. It's a good idea and I urge adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Thank you, Representative.

Will you remark further?

Representative Miller, of the 36th.

REP. MILLER (36th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and good morning to you.

I rise in support of this bill. I think the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has made the case for good management with this bill, and I think it is the best agriculture that is available, that which we have right here in Connecticut. And we're of a small enough scale that it's wholesome and healthy, at its best, and so I would passage of this bill.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Will you remark further on this bill? Will you
remark further on this bill?

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

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

The House of Representatives is now voting by roll.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members
voted? Will the members please check the board to
determine if your vote has been properly cast.

If all members have voted, the machine will be
locked and the Clerk will take a tally.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Vicino, for what purpose do you
rise?

REP. VICINO (35th):

Representative Vicino, from the 35th, I vote for
positive.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Thank you, Representative Vicino.

Representative Vicino in the affirmative.

The Clerk will please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Bill Number 6313.

Total Number Voting	137
Necessary for Passage	69
Those voting Yea	137
Voting Nay	0
Absent and not voting	14

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

The bill passes.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 76.

THE CLERK:

On House Calendar Number -- Page 8, House
Calendar Number 76, Substitute House Bill 6315,
Favorable Report of the joint standing Committee on
Environment, AN ACT CONCERNING THE RESALE OF DOGS TO
MILITARY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Gentile, you have the floor.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I move for the acceptance of the
joint committee's report, Favorable Report and passage
of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

S - 659

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VOL. 56
PART 8
2153 - 2500**

No objection may it please go on our Consent Calendar?

THE CHAIR:

Seeing and hearing no objection, so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Also on page nine, Calendar 338, House Bill number 6313, AN ACT CONCERNING LOCALLY GROWN POULTRY IN CONNECTICUT FOOD MARKETS, favorable report of the Committee on Environment.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move acceptance of the committee's joint and favorable report and move passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

On acceptance and passage will you remark?

SENATOR MEYER:

Yes. Colleagues, locally grown poultry under our current law can be sold to households, restaurants, hotels and boarding houses but if you can believe it there's an omission. It can't be sold to grocery stores. So this bill is very simple and provides that local poultry can be sold by poultry processing facilities to -- to our grocery stores and other retail food establishments as well as to directly to consumers, restaurants and hotels. That's it.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Senator Chapin.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I -- again I rise in support of the bill before us. I think it's -- was accurately characterized as enhancing locally grown opportunities for people who do grow poultry in the State of Connecticut and I encourage my colleagues to support it. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further on the bill? Will you remark further on the bill? Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Yes. I appreciate it. Without objection it could be put on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing and hearing no objection, so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page nine, Calendar 339, substitute for House Bill number 6315, AN ACT CONCERNING THE RESALE OF DOGS TO MILITARY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, favorable report of the Committee on Environment.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move acceptance of the committee's joint and favorable report and move passage of this bill please.

THE CHAIR:

On acceptance and passage will you remark?

THE CHAIR:

THE CHAIR:

The bill passes in concurrence with the House.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, if would mark all items previously marked go should be marked passed retaining their place on the Calendar. And if the Clerk would call the items on the Consent Calendar so that we might proceed to a vote on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page five, Calendar 229, Senate Bill 1027, Calendar 232, Senate Bill number 984. On Calendar page nine, Calendar 336, House Bill 6529, Calendar 337, House Bill 5310. Also on page nine Calendar 338, House Bill 6313 and Calendar 339, House Bill 6315. On page ten, Calendar 345, House Bill 5970. And on page 13, Calendar 393, Senate Bill number 872. Page 18, Calendar 468, House Bill 5388. Page 27, Calendar 561, House Bill 6641 and Calendar 565, House Bill 6346. And on page 40, Calendar 302, Senate Bill 1016.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The machine will be opened, vote on a Consent Calendar.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate. Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll call on today's Consent Calendar in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted?
Please check the board and make sure your vote has
accurately recorded. If all members have voted the
machine will be closed and the Clerk will announce the
tally.

THE CLERK:

On today's Consent Calendar.

Total Number Voting	36
Necessary for Adoption	19
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar 1 passes. Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, before
moving for moving for adjournment for today would like
to announce that we will likely be in -- in session
next week Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and also
possibly Friday so members should reserve those four
days next week as -- as possible or probable session
days. At this point, Mr. President, would yield the
floor to members for announcements of committee
meetings or for other points of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Before we do that I would like to
just to take the privilege of -- May is a big birthday
month and we have one of our members who is
celebrating her birthday tomorrow. I would like to
wish Senator Bye a happy birthday tomorrow and I'm
trying to figure out if her birthday wish was granted
as she's not here as she would have liked to have been
here. But happy birthday.

And there is a bipartisan fruit in the caucus room for
Senator Bye because she didn't want a cake so we got
her some fruit that's -- that she requested. So