

# Environment Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-298

AN ACT CONCERNING PERMITTING FOR LOCAL BUTCHER SHOPS TO

**Title:** PROCESS FARMER-OWNED LIVESTOCK.

**Vote Date:** 3/10/2023

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/27/2023

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Environment committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

To help in the backlog by USDA facilities processing farmers livestock

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

None expressed

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

### **Joan Nicholos, Executive Director, Ct Farm Bureau Association:**

Ms. Nicholos testified that as a private, non-profit organization we welcome working with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, USDA, the Department of Public Health and the Connecticut livestock producers. The shortage of processing facilities both in Connecticut and the region has been an ongoing problem for almost a decade and has become more acute during the COVID-19 pandemic. The inefficiency burdens of this processing burden the farmer and consumer with transportation costs.

### **Erin, Pirro, Farm Business Consultant, Pirro Farm:**

Ms. Pirro submitted testimony as a sheep shearer based in Granby, Ct. she has assisted many farms and has found in each case a consistent problem with the lack of USDA inspected meat processing facilities in Connecticut. It is especially challenging in the fall when animals are traditionally harvested and hunting season.

**Kimberly Stoner, Director of Advocacy CT Northeast Organic Farming Association:**

Ms. Stoner testified that the USDA does not have adequate processing capacity and farmers are unable to get their USDA inspected carcasses processed for resale under inspection by the Department of Public Health.

**Molly Allard, Allard Family Farm:**

Ms. Allard testified on the need for farmers across Connecticut to have more options for USDA location. We raise 1400-1500 pasture meat birds and have to bring them out of state to a USDA processor May through October. We would love to be able to support a local butcher shop to minimize the stress of the birds during transport, reduce fuel usage and saving time.

**Peter Sepe, Sepe Farms:**

Mr. Sepe submitted testimony in support as a sheep farmer in Sandy Hook, with over 300 lambs I have received many calls from farmers who could not get their livestock processed under the required USDA inspection particularly from September through December. The potential in this state is terrific for raising livestock but not if you can't get them processed. The USDA does not have enough processing capacity on the cutting floor and there plenty of butchers under the Department of Public Health.

**Mr. Alex Bernier also submitted testimony in support of the bill.**

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Danielle Franks and Meghan Masterson submitted testimony in opposition**

Reported by: Pamela Bianca

Date: March 13,202,