



LEE NERISON

96TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Capitol:

Post Office Box 8953

Madison, WI 53708-8953

(608) 266-3534

Toll-Free: (888) 534-0096

Fax: (608) 282-3696

Rep.Nerison@legis.wi.gov

District:

(608) 634-4562

Serving Crawford, Monroe,

and Vernon Counties

Remarks of Representative Lee Nerison
on Assembly Bill 644/Senate Bill 513
Senate and Assembly Committees on Agriculture
January 13, 2016

Committee Members:

I testify in support of Assembly Bill 644, which I have authored, and its companion bill, Senate Bill 513, authored by Senator Moulton.

We are authoring this legislation to modernize the statutes pertaining to Wisconsin's small-scale, specialty meat and poultry processing industry which has changed dramatically in recent years. By updating terminology, aligning state statutes with federal requirements, and modernizing our licensing fee structure, Wisconsin meat producers will remain competitive and be able to expand into unique markets while ensuring a safe food supply.

Assembly Bill 644/Senate Bill 513 does the following:

- Aligns Wisconsin's meat inspection statutes with federal requirements as required by the USDA's Cooperative Interstate Shipment (CIS) Program.
- Caps meat processor license fees at the current level and requires DATCP to set annual fees based on the complexity and scale of a license-holder's business, which will be more equitable for smaller establishments.
- Eliminates duplicative licenses for retail food establishments which make certain meat products, such as pizzas shipped hot for sale by non-profit organizations.
- Simplifies regulatory oversight and reduces fees for slaughtering, processing, and shipping products from newly popular animal species such as bison, alpacas, llamas, and rabbits.
- Repeals obsolete references to county and local meat inspection and redundant language regarding the labeling of horse meat.

The changes proposed in this bill are expected to result in reduced costs and less regulatory complexity. I encourage you to support this legislation which keeps Wisconsin's statutes up-to-date to ensure our growing meat processing industry continues to move forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



TERRY MOULTON



WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

23RD SENATE DISTRICT

From: Senator Terry Moulton

To: Joint Committee on Agriculture

Re: Testimony on Senate Bill 513 and Assembly Bill 644
Relating to: regulation of establishments where animals are slaughtered or meat is processed, and granting rule-making authority.

Date: January 13, 2016

Mr. Vice Chairman and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today about Senate Bill 513 and Assembly Bill 644, which reform meat and poultry processing.

Currently the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) administers a licensing and inspection program for meat and poultry slaughtering and processing. Senate Bill 513 and Assembly Bill 644 update statutes to modernize meat and poultry inspection and simplify oversight for new animal species.

Currently, state-inspected meat and poultry establishments in Wisconsin may be required to go through additional inspections to ship their products to other states. Senate Bill 513 and Assembly Bill 644 will reduce this expensive and time-consuming burden by aligning the state meat inspection program with federal regulations for the USDA's Cooperative Interstate Shipment Program. This program expands the market for Wisconsin state-inspected meat and poultry establishments by allowing interstate sales of state-inspected meat products. These bills also simplify the regulatory oversight necessary for slaughtering, processing and shipping products from more recently popular animal species such as bison and llamas. This streamlined process will save hourly fees for the businesses that sell these products.

While maintaining high standards for meat and poultry inspection to protect health, these bills will help Wisconsin's small meat and poultry processors by removing red tape that makes it difficult to sell their products in other states and streamlining the regulation for newly popular animal species. I ask you to please vote to recommend the passage of Senate Bill 513 and Assembly Bill 644. Thank you again for allowing me to testify today.

Serving the 23rd Senate District