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Attn: Representative Craven, Chair House Judiciary Committee and Committee Members

Testimony in Opposition to H 7056

An Act Relating to Food and Drugs—Force-Fed Poultry Products
Before the House Judiciary Committee

January 30, 2024

Rhode Island Farm Bureau is an independent, non-governmental grassroots organization of farm families united to enhance and strengthen the lives of rural Americans, and to build strong, prosperous agricultural communities. Today our over 1200 members are not only large farmers and small farmers, but also include those engaged in agricultural industries, teachers of agriculture, and consumers.

Rhode Island Farm Bureau is opposed to **H 7056 Force-Fed Poultry Products**. There exist only three Foie Gras producers in the United States, all are located in upstate New York. There are no Rhode Island farms producing foie gras products.

Banning force-fed poultry products and products containing them will affect the farms raising the ducks and geese, the families employed by them, and the economies in the towns where the farms reside. On the consumer side, it will affect restaurants, food distributors and markets, chefs, and consumers. Chefs go out of their way to source responsibly raised products for their customers, as that is what the consumer has come to demand. If the demand for foie gras was not there, the product would not exist.

Rhode Island Farm Bureau asks that you oppose **H 7056** and allow the consumer to be the ultimate decision maker as to the foods available in their own homes and the restaurants they choose to frequent.

Henry B. Wright III
President, RI Farm Bureau