

Chairman Meyer, Chairman Roy and Members of the Environment Committee,

I am Paul Miller, Fairvue Farms, Woodstock, Dairy Farmer
Speaking in favor of HB 5272 and HB 5483

The dairy industry in this country is backed into a corner. Connecticut dairies are being pushed over a cliff. You are hearing many horror stories of farmers that are not going to make it. Farmers that are in most trouble don't come to Hartford. Our farm is no different. We are losing \$100,000 a month. We had a consultant recently tell us we didn't have to out run the bear that was chasing us, we just had to outlast our neighbors. The problem in the dairy industry in Connecticut is we are running out of neighbors.

Is this what the state wants to have happen to its local food supply? I have read where people on the national level feel we need to euthanize 300,000 cows in this country. How many of Connecticut's 20,000 cows will be in that scenario? The dairy industry in Connecticut is simply if you are the last one running from the bear, you might just drop dead of exhaustion, even if you outrun the bear. All the industries that rely on us will have to move or they will be eaten by the same bear. All the things that the residents on Connecticut have come to expect from having farms will disappear. We may still have spaces but what will they look like?

I think it's scary to think we might have to depend on milk from underdeveloped countries. You may say that's not possible but it's happening already.

We need action in weeks not years. You've heard a lot of talk about green collar jobs. How can jobs be any greener than ours?