

Longhi Farm & Greenhouse
1429 Enfield Street
Enfield, CT 06082
February 7, 2009

Finance Committee Members,

RE: HB6350

Dear Members,

I will keep my letter simple and direct. Last Wednesday night in Enfield I attended a town wide meeting. The meeting was to get public input for the 10 year plan of conservation and development that is required by the state. The entire town was invited and the group was surveyed. They were asked to list their three top priorities. *Preserving and maintaining the current farms was the public's number one priority.* The Hartford Courant on Friday stated: Focus on Farmland & Riverfront.

To be able to preserve and maintain the agricultural farmland that is presently in the state of Connecticut the farmer has to be able to survive. Many farms are struggling and in my area one large farm of over 40 acres is up for sale and in the abutting town a 70 acre farm is being auctioned off. If you eliminate the "Farmers Tax Exemption Permit" it will be catastrophic to the whole agricultural community. This exemption was put in place so that farmers could purchase equipment and building materials to keep these farms running. I recently built new greenhouses on my farm.

Active farms are dwindling and to eliminate the "Farmers Tax Exemption Permit" and fuel tax is just another push to drive more farmers out of business. I am asking you please do not eliminate these exemptions *for the survival of the farms* in our state.

Thank you

Lori S Longhi

Lori S. Longhi
Greenhouse owner