

March 26, 2010

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

HB 5543

Good afternoon members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Bill Leahey and I am here today to support HB 5543.

I have an 80 acre farm in Suffield that is a family business. On the farm we produce broadleaf tobacco, hay, straw, have a greenhouse operation and also a small herd of beef cattle. I am also president of the Conn Mass Tobacco Growers' Assoc.

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is extremely important to the farmers of this state and I can speak specifically of the Connecticut River Valley. Our direct contact with the Experiment Station is with the Valley Laboratory in Windsor.

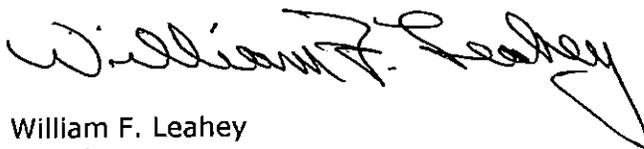
One of the things scientists do at the Experiment Station is work on improving many plant types introducing new varieties. Much work has been done over many many years to incorporate genetic plant resistance to plant pathogens.

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station should have protection for new plant varieties and other discoveries through regulation in the state statues by seeking patents, trademarks and licensing agreements so it can be documented they took place here in Connecticut at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

I know our agricultural industry was saved by work done at the Experiment Staton.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William F. Leahey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

William F. Leahey
President
Conn Mass Tobacco Growers' Assoc.