



775 Bloomfield Avenue, Windsor, CT 06095-2322
860-768-1100 • Fax 860-768-1108 • www.cfba.org

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Testimony regarding:

HB 305 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION OF STONE WALLS

Submitted by: Steven K. Reviczky, Executive Director, Connecticut Farm Bureau Association

The following testimony is submitted on behalf of the Connecticut Farm Bureau, a statewide nonprofit membership organization of over 5,000 families dedicated to farming and the future of Connecticut agriculture.

Connecticut Farm Bureau is concerned about the impact of SB 305 an Act Concerning the Preservation of Stone Walls

Senator Coleman, Representative Sharkey and Members of the Planning and Development Committee:

The Connecticut Farm Bureau Association is very concerned about the impact that SB 305 could have on the ability to farm in Connecticut. As technology and agricultural equipment have evolved over time, it is often necessary to reconfigure and expand agricultural fields in order to conduct agricultural activities defined in CGS 1-1. Most stone walls were constructed at a time when farmers farmed with horses and without the benefit of equipment available today. Prohibiting the removal and/or reconfiguration of stone walls hinders farmers' ability to farm efficiently. In addition, it is unclear what "preservation" entails over time.

SB 305 is overly broad and will have unintended consequences on Connecticut farmers and agricultural viability in our state.