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Testimony presented to the Environment Committee  
of the Connecticut General Assembly by  
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F. Philip Prelli

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Good morning Chairman Meyer, Chairman Roy, Ranking Members McKinney, Chapin and Members of the Committee.

My name is Phil Prelli and I serve as Connecticut's Commissioner of Agriculture. I am here today to testify on Raised Bill: R.B. 126 AA ADDING WOOD SMOKE TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCE CODE AND CONCERNING OUTDOOR WOOD-BURNING FURNACES

Our interpretation of this proposed legislation leads us to believe that this would not apply to those engaged in agricultural pursuits. If that interpretation is wrong we have these comments to make.

The Department is of the opinion that a few bad actors have caused a great deal of concern about this needed technology. While the proposed legislation clearly says, "Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the use of an outdoor wood-burning furnace for agricultural purposes." the bill limits the use of wood-burning furnaces to the period of October 15<sup>th</sup> to April 15<sup>th</sup>. This time frame may not be suitable for greenhouse growers, depending on their crop.

The Department believes that some simple guidelines may be helpful in the resolution of this controversy.

1. Smokestack heights and setbacks from neighbor's properties should be rigorously enforced locally.
2. The use of proper fuel sources should be vigorously monitored and enforced.
3. Old outdoor wood-burning furnaces should be grandfathered and a reasonable grace period for requiring new technology should be granted.

The Department believes that adherence to these simple principles would alleviate a great deal of the problem while allowing Connecticut farmers to take advantage of fuel cost savings, helping them to manage energy costs that threaten to make them uncompetitive