



**Connecticut Farm Bureau Association**  
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**Testimony regarding:**

**Raised Bill No. 123: AN ACT CONCERNING PRESERVING NATURAL VEGETATION NEAR WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES**

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

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*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.*

Senator Edward Meyer, Representative Richard Roy and members of the Environment Committee:

The Connecticut Farm Bureau supports the inclusion of CGS Section 1-1 in subsection (a) of section 22a-40 as a means to more clearly determine what is considered an agricultural activity under the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act. CGS Section 1-1 defines farming and agriculture.

The Connecticut Farm Bureau opposes the removal of "harvesting of crops" from Subsection (a) of Section 22a-40 of the Connecticut General Statutes as a proposed in SB 123. The harvesting of crops is clearly an integral part of farming, including forestry. Crops may include annual field crops for human and animal consumption, nursery and forest products. Connecticut Farm Bureau supports Section 3, subsection (d) of SB 123 *provided* "harvesting of crops" remains as a permitted as of right activity under Subsection (a) of section CGS 22a-40.

Connecticut Farm Bureau supports and encourages environmental protection for riparian areas through education and implementation of acceptable agricultural practices by Connecticut farmers. Many of Connecticut farmers are involved in USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service programs that enhance conservation practices on their farms. State certified forest practitioners are well-trained in the best management practices necessary to protect riparian areas in the course of forest management activity. Removing "harvesting of crops" from sec. 22a-40 may inadvertently force many agricultural and forestry operations into a burdensome regulatory process that is unnecessary and economically crippling to most agricultural operations in Connecticut.