



**Connecticut Farm Bureau Association**

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**Testimony in Support of:**

**S.B. 1020 AN ACT CONCERNING WATER RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Submitted by: Donald Tuller, President, 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 Gary LeBeau, Representative Jeffrey Berger and members of the Commerce Committee:

Connecticut Farm Bureau Association urges your support of S.B. 1020. S.B. 1020 takes into consideration the concerns of all stakeholders who may be impacted by water resources regulations and requires the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt stream flow regulations in concurrence with the Departments of Health, Economic and Community Development and Agriculture. This collaboration will insure that the interests of all stakeholders are considered in the regulatory process.

Water usage for agriculture is unique and diverse. It is imperative that the Department of Environmental Protection work with the Commissioner of Agriculture to insure that water is available to Connecticut farmers for crop and livestock production without undue financial hardship or over burdensome regulation.

Connecticut Farm Bureau Association believes that S.B. 1020 will create the balance necessary to protect Connecticut's streams while meeting the needs of water supply users.