



7 March 2011

Environment Committee
Room 3200, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: HB 5203 AN ACT AUTHORIZING AN AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON
THE LANDS OF THE SOUTHBURY TRAINING SCHOOL

Dear Committee Members,

I write to you on behalf of the Roxbury Conservation Commission. As you may be aware, in the State of Connecticut, municipal conservation commissions are charged to serve as the "Conservation Consciousness of the Community." We seek to preserve Roxbury's open space, agricultural lands, scenic views and roads, unusual or important natural features, and historic or aesthetic resources. Roxbury treasures its farming heritage.

Our commission is concerned about the rapid loss of farmland in our community, region, and the state of Connecticut. We fully support the passage of HB 5203 as a cost-free means to conserve a vital resource and a prudent investment in our state's economic future.

We ask that you reflect on these important issues and approve the proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

Trudy Swenson McKinna
Roxbury Conservation Commission Chairman

On behalf of all Roxbury Conservation Commission members:

Hugh Rawson, Vice Chair
Cathy Masi, Secretary
Ron Faanes
Erika Ketchum

Cecelia Santillo
Gary Steinman
Mary van Riper