

The proposed bill of transferring Connecticut owned forests to the Department of Agriculture is a natural fit as most agricultural Departments in the States have management responsibilities for its forests. There are many forest products that provide economic value to the agricultural industry in the State. Agricultural employees have knowledge and expertise to manage these resources.

The state Dept. of Agriculture will be in a strong position to provide expertise and evaluations of promoting commercial value of forest products.

An example, in the State of Vermont, three state forests are involved in lease arrangements for Maple Syrup production by maple syrup producers. These producers pay an annual fee and fee for each tap that gathers syrup.

This brings money into the state and it provides a healthy economic development program by having more home produced maple syrup produced in the state.

As a common ordinary citizen of this State I urgently urge the committee to approve H.B 5363 Thank you your consideration.

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