



Connecticut Farm Bureau Association

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Testimony in Support of:

H.B. 6263: AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSITION FROM THE TEN MIL PROGRAM

Submitted by: Donald Tuller, President, Connecticut Farm Bureau Association

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:

Beginning in 2011, approximately 14,000 acres of forest land held in private ownership under the ten mill program will be reassessed at a substantially higher assessment than comparable forest land under PA 490. The ten mil program is an archaic tax law that never took into account the potential for skyrocketing land values when it was enacted in the early part of the 20th century.

Connecticut forest land comprises over 50% of the state's land base and over 80% of that land base is held in private ownership. Cost of Community Services studies consistently show that working lands generate more in tax revenues than the town's expend in supporting that land. Forest land provides wildlife habitat, open space, clean water and clean air to all residents of the state of Connecticut. Many owners of ten mil land have owned this property for multiple generations and have a fond sense of stewardship. They should not be penalized for being good stewards of their land. H.B. 6263 will allow ten mil land to be taxed at the same rate as land classified as Forest Land under PA 490. H.B. 6263 is good public policy that will help protect 14,000 acres of Connecticut forest land from an overly burdensome tax assessment.

Connecticut Farm Bureau urges your support of H.B. 6263.