



**Connecticut Farm Bureau Association**  
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**H.B. 6505: AN ACT CONCERNING STREAMFLOW REGULATION**

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

Connecticut Farm Bureau Association has grave concerns over H.B. 6505 and how it may impact Connecticut agriculture. The Association opposed the CT DEP Proposed Stream Flow Standards and Regulations on the grounds that they did not adequately address the concerns of Connecticut agriculture and provided no assurances that farmers would have access to water for crops and livestock at a times of low flow. The regulations also were unclear as to the cost and method of compliance for agricultural producers. While the CT DEP assured the agricultural community early on in the process, that their concerns would be addressed, that was not the case when the regulations were released for public hearing. These regulations were rejected by the Regulatory Review Committee and sent back to the CT DEP.

Connecticut Farm Bureau Association is concerned that H.B. 6505 will send the CT DEP down the same contentious path as the proposed standards and regulations for stream flow. The CT DEP has a poor track record of addressing the concerns of stakeholders when drafting regulations with respect to water usage. Connecticut Farm Bureau Association urges your rejection of H.B. 6505 until such time as the CT DEP can develop a plan for working with stakeholders that will balance the needs of water users and the environment.