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February 22, 2011

**Testimony in support of:**

**S.B. 992 AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT WINE FESTIVALS**

Submitted By: Don 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 farmers and the future of Connecticut agriculture.*

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

Connecticut Farm Bureau asks your support of R.B. 992. Wine festivals are a growing trend for vineyards to promote themselves and their industry, and provide added value to their farming operation. Festivals also bring consumers to the farm which helps bring awareness of the importance of supporting local agriculture.

This Act would allow one more festival per year, meaning a total of two. These festivals have become tourist attractions for visitors to our state as well as local people. As a result, the benefits to our tourism industry should also be considered. We urge your support for R.B. 992 AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT WINE FESTIVALS.