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Written Testimony of Christopher Phelps, Program Director  
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Written testimony regarding Proposed Senate Bill 634, AAC Farm Methane Resources, and HB 5846, AAC Energy Generation From Organic Refuse.

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, Senator Witkos, Representative Hoydick, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony regarding SB 634 and HB 5846. Environment Connecticut is a member-supported non-profit environmental advocacy organization. We are a part of the Environment America federation of state-based environment groups and advocate for policies to protect our air, water, and natural landscape.

We are offering this brief combined testimony on these two bills since they appear to both relate to the topic of energy generation from methane derived from farms. We support incentives for the development of new renewable energy generation sources that reduce our dependence on oil and other fossil fuels, cut emissions of pollution including global warming pollutants, and increase our energy security. With proper safeguards, methane from sources such as livestock operations can be a viable renewable electricity resource.

We are not aware of significant opportunities for farm methane electric generation resources in Connecticut. However, to the extent such opportunities exist, and can be developed in an environmentally responsible manner; we support policies providing appropriate incentives for such technology. We look forward to the opportunity to learn more about the goals and intentions of these proposed bills and the specific technologies and applications they are intended to support.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony regarding SB 634 and HB 5846.

Sincerely,

Christopher Phelps  
Program Director  
Environment Connecticut