



**Working Lands Alliance**  
A Project of American Farmland Trust

Date: February 17, 2011

To: Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee

**Support for Nomination of Steve Reviczky as Commissioner of Agriculture**

Submitted by: Ben Howell, Acting Project Director, Working Lands Alliance

---

*The following testimony is submitted on behalf of the Working Lands Alliance, a statewide coalition of caring individuals and more than 200 organizations and businesses working together to raise awareness of the need and importance of saving Connecticut's valuable and vanishing farmland.*

The Working Lands Alliance has worked closely with Steve Reviczky for many years and is proud to strongly support his nomination as Commissioner of Agriculture for the state of Connecticut.

We are delighted by the Governor's nomination of an individual who fully understands the importance of farmland preservation to CT agriculture and the state as a whole. From 2006 until his recent nomination as Commissioner, Steve served on the Working Lands Alliance Steering Committee and was an important partner in our efforts to increase the pace of farmland protection in Connecticut. Steve's prior experience as Property Agent of the CT Farmland Preservation Program gives him a valuable perspective on farmland preservation. He understands the perspectives and concerns of farmers, and appreciates the complexity of projects that involve state, federal, municipal and private funding and requirements.

Importantly, Mr. Reviczky understands farming in our state. As the Executive Director of the CT Farm Bureau, Steve was the "voice of Connecticut agriculture" and an excellent representative of the more than 5,000 members of that organization. We are confident that he will continue to be a strong advocate for the state's \$3.5 billion agricultural industry and will do all he can to *Keep it Growing*.

Thank you again for the opportunity to address the Committee. The Working Lands Alliance is strongly supportive of the nomination of Steve Reviczky as Commissioner of Agriculture and urges your confirmation.