



Connecticut Farm Bureau Association
775 Bloomfield Ave., Windsor, CT 06095-2322
(860) 768-1100 • Fax (860) 768-1108 •
www.cfba.org

March 1, 2011

Testimony in Support of:

H.B. 5471 AN ACT REQUIRING ZONING REGULATIONS TO CONSIDER THE PRESERVATION OF FARM LAND, FOREST LAND AND OPEN SPACE.

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 Steve Cassano, Representative Linda Gentile and members of the Planning and Development Committee:

Connecticut Farm Bureau Association urges your support of H.B. 5470. This bill proposes to amend CGS 8-2(a) to provide that when municipal zoning commissions amend their regulations those regulations are consistent with CGS 12-107(a).

CGS 12-107a is the Declaration of Policy that established public policy for the protection of farmland, forestland and open space through PA 490. The language set forth in CGS 12-107a would serve equally well to protecting farmland, forestland and open space land from land use regulation that is inconsistent with the intent of this legislation.

Cost of Community studies across Connecticut show that on average for every dollar generated by residential development, \$1.19 is expended in public services. Whereas for every dollar generated from working and open land, only \$0.37 is expended in public services. Connecticut agriculture is a growing part of the state's economy both in gross sales and jobs. Connecticut agriculture cannot continue to grow and prosper without a favorable regulatory climate on the municipal level. Connecticut farmers must be able to diversify and expand their farming operations to meet an ever growing consumer demand for locally grown farm products. Connecticut agriculture secures a local food source, open space, an opportunity for agri-tourism and an economic boom to local and state economies. Municipal land use regulations that are consistent with the intent of CGS 12-107a will do for local zoning regulations what PA 490 has done so successfully for over 40 years in helping to protect Connecticut's farmland, forestland and open space land.

H.B. 5471 is a result of a proposal put forth by the Connecticut Farm Bureau Association Right to Farm Committee which focused on land use legislation and we urge your support on this important initiative.