



Connecticut Farm Bureau Association
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February 13, 2011

Testimony in Support of:

S.B. 720 AN ACT CREATING PENALTIES FOR CAUSING HARM TO, OR THE DEATH OF, A VULNERABLE USER OF A PUBLIC WAY.

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 Andrew Maynard, Representative Antonio Guerrero and members of the Transportation Committee:

Connecticut Farm Bureau Association strongly supports S.B. 720. Farm tractors routinely travel public highways throughout the growing season to farm agricultural land that is both owned by the farmer and lease land. Tractors are slow moving vehicles often pulling various types of farm implements. Our farmers often encounter impatient drivers who attempt to pass tractors inappropriately, not only endangering the life of the farmer but also the lives of other drivers on the road. We have had farmers injured in motor vehicle accidents in which drivers of motor vehicles misjudge the width of the tractor or the speed with which the tractor is traveling and have collided with the back end of a tractor. These accidents have occurred despite the fact that the tractors were equipped with SMV (Slow Moving Vehicle) orange triangles and caution lights. These accidents have caused serious injury to the operator and damage or loss of expensive farm equipment.

Fragmentation and loss of farmland has forced Connecticut farmers to travel on public highways to access the properties they need to support their farming operation. They should not be endangered by the negligence of certain individuals who cannot share the road safely with slow and vulnerable users.

Connecticut Farm Bureau Association - *The Voice of Connecticut Agriculture*