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March 16, 2012

Testimony in Opposition to: Raised Bill No. 5121

AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF ORGANIC PESTICIDES ON SCHOOL PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING MUNICIPAL REGULATION OF PESTICIDES ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY.

Submitted by: Henry N. Talmage, Executive Director, 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 Meyer, Representative Roy, Members of Environment Committee,

The Connecticut Farm Bureau is concerned with Sec. 3 of Raised Bill No. 5121.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environment (DEEP) through its Pesticide Management Program and pursuant to state pesticide law is charged with pesticide certification in CT. Decisions on whether or not to allow certification or continued use of approved pesticides are determined on a product-by-product and use-by-use basis using applicable research and scientific data including pesticide registration data from the EPA. Evaluation of use for safety, environmental impact and effectiveness of pesticides requires specific and in-depth scientific knowledge that DEEP and EPA professionals possess. We do not believe the expertise necessary to make professional, science-based decisions on appropriate pesticide use exists at the municipal level and we urge you to address these concerns during your consideration of Raised Bill No. 5121.

Thank you for your consideration on this testimony.