



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

**March 16, 2012**

**Testimony in Support of: Raised Bill No. 349**

**AN ACT CONCERNING TRAINING FOR INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY MEMBERS AND AGENTS:**

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.*

Representative Roy, Senator Meyer and Members of the Environment Committee:

Connecticut Farm Bureau Association urges your support of Raised Bill No. 349. The Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act is a complex and important piece of land use legislation. It is implemented by local Inland Wetlands Commissions comprised of volunteers who may or may not have formal education and professional expertise in land use issues as related to wetlands. The Wetlands Management Section of the Connecticut DEEP provides training materials and programs for Inland Wetland Commission members, however the current statutory requirement for mandatory training is inadequate considering the complexity of wetlands law and the diversity of applications.

In 2009 Connecticut Farm Bureau worked with DEP to provide Segment 3 training for wetlands commissions on wetlands applications as related to various agricultural operations. Many commission members had not been on working farms or fully understood how the wetlands law pertains to agriculture. The commissions members that participated ended the program with a better understanding of how to implement the law with regards to agriculture and were better equipped to rule on applications in the future.

A well trained and knowledgeable Inland Wetlands Commission will be better able to serve municipalities, applicants and the natural resource they are charged to protect.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.