



**Connecticut Farm Bureau Association**  
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**Testimony in Opposition to: Raised Bill no. 5324 AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD SAFETY BY RESTRICTING THE PLACEMENT OF LEGHOLD TRAPS**

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.*

Members of the Select Committee on Children,

Agriculture is a \$3.5 billion industry comprising over 20,000 jobs in Connecticut according to a 2010 University of Connecticut study on the impact of the agricultural to the state's economy. There is significant interest in local foods and farm products. Connecticut is finally considering growth in agriculture as a legitimate economic development strategy.

Connecticut farmers suffer hundreds of thousands of dollars in damages to crops annually due to wildlife. Leghold and other traps are necessary tools needed to manage and limit devastating and costly crop damage.

The setbacks proposed in section (c) of Raised Bill no. 5324 are so restrictive that they will effectively eliminate the use of leghold traps on most privately owned parcels. We believe that these setbacks are unnecessary and excessive and they place unreasonable limits on private property owner's rights.

CT Farm Bureau therefore urges the defeat of Raised Bill No. 5324