

## Public Hearing March 2, 2012 Planning & Development Committee

### SUPPORT:

**SB 262 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ASSESSMENT OF FARM MACHINERY AND LIVESTOCK AND THE TRANSFER OF LAND CLASSIFIED AS FARM LAND, OPEN SPACE LAND, FOREST LAND AND MARITIME HERITAGE LAND.**

Purpose: To make all horses and ponies exempt from property taxation; to increase the property tax exemption for farm machinery; to amend the date on which a qualified foresters report must be submitted; to require property owners to provide notice of an excepted transfer of land classified as farm land, open space land, forest land or maritime heritage land, and to make other changes concerning the assessment of such classified land.

Dear Honorable Planning & Development committee Chairman and Members:

I am a Connecticut horse owner located in Plymouth, CT. I am also a Board Member of the Connecticut Horse Council. As such, I would like to see this bill passed. Horses/Ponies should not be taxed as property; they are animals. It seems to be that attempt would be incredibly labor intensive and costly. Connecticut agriculture could use all the help it can get. Agriculture should be kept and encouraged as a viable asset to the Connecticut economy. We have enough problems in this State that presently increase the cost of food and its production; the loss of farms and farm lands will only add to a bad situation. In the end, the consumer will lose.

Thank you in advance for your support in passing this bill.

Sincerely,

Diane Ciano  
660 Greystone Road  
Plymouth, CT