



Connecticut Farm Bureau Association
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Dear Members of the Committee on Commerce,

Please support, **SB 1078 AN ACT INCREASING THE GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT OF VEHICLES HAULING AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.**

My family farms 650 acres in East Canaan, CT and I chair the Connecticut Farm Bureau Dairy Committee. Our farm milks 275 cows, part of the nearly 20,000 cows that produce fresh wholesome milk every day for the citizens of our State. The Connecticut dairy industry relies heavily on truck transportation to place the proper inputs on our farm and to carry our milk to the local dairy processing plants.

Our industry is disadvantaged by current weight laws that limit truck weights compared to surrounding States. Trucks travel our roads well under capacity in order to comply with Ct laws. This costs our farms multiple times as each day as milk goes to market in trucks partially full and grain and fertilizer companies need to charge us more as inputs must be reloaded to accommodate CT restrictions.

We have a unique opportunity to request changes in the federal law as Congress opens the transportation bill this year. Please make CT ready to be a more friendly state for farming by increasing the weight limit to 100,000 pounds. Agriculture is a well-documented economic engine that feeds our people, maintains open space, provides jobs, recharges our wetlands, and increases the quality of life for our citizens. Please allow us to do our important work equally as efficient as our fellow farmers separated only by State borders.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Freund

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East Canaan, CT 06024