



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Public Hearing – January 30, 2013
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Dan Esty
Presented By Deputy Commissioner Susan Whalen

**H.B. 5309 AN ACT CONCERNING THE FINE FOR VIOLATING A QUARANTINE OR REGULATION
OF THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding H.B. 5309 AN ACT CONCERNING THE FINE FOR VIOLATING A QUARANTINE OR REGULATION OF THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

DEEP supports this bill as proposed. Connecticut General Statute 22-84(c) only allows the Director of the Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station to fine not less than five dollars or more than one hundred dollars for violating any quarantine or any regulation established under the provisions Connecticut General Statute 22-84. These penalty amounts are inadequate and do not reflect the current economic and environmental threats posed to Connecticut's residents, municipalities, and natural resources from dangerous and damaging insects and diseases.

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station must be adequately equipped to control, suppress, and exterminate harmful pests such as Asian longhorned beetle and Emerald ash borer. Increasing the fines for violating Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station regulations and quarantines from five to one hundred dollars to five hundred to twenty five hundred dollars provides sufficient incentive and penalty to curb the spread of these and other destructive agents.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact DEEP's legislative liaison, Robert LaFrance at 424-3401 or Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov