



# Fairvue Farms, LLC

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## **Chairman Duff, Chairman Reed and Members of the Energy and Technology Committee: HB# 6360**

Fairvue Farms is a family owned dairy farm located at 199 Route 171, Woodstock, Connecticut. The farm has been owned by the Miller family since 1962. The property has been used for farming for over 200 years.

Fairvue Farms would like to construct an onsite anaerobic digester (AD) taking manure, food waste and crop residues, turning them into electricity, heat, fertilizer and a bedding source for our dairy cows. We would be able to generate over 20 times the electricity we would be able to use. We will be able to generate 2 megawatts of power which would be beneficial to the state grid and provide a local green energy source.

The Miller family is dedicated to develop sustainable practices that improve the overall economic prosperity of the farm. We are determined that reductions in operating costs and additional revenue streams must be created not only for long term success of Fairvue Farms, but for all agriculture in Connecticut. Renewable energy solutions that create both operation savings and additional revenue streams should be a priority for the State's future.

We need to have a net metering bill that makes sense, one that allows us to market all the electricity that we produce. To be able to attract the capital needed to construct the facility we need to be able to show a return. All we have to do is look to our European neighbors and see how we have fallen behind in our electrical and environmental needs. A good part of their electricity comes from farm generation. There are over 5000 digesters in Germany alone. We need to be looking at all the benefits of developing a clean energy for our state. We think we are a progressive farm that wants to develop a future for the next generation of farmers.

The benefits to Fairvue Farms and the surrounding community are as follows:

- Fairvue Farms will save over \$150,000 in annual energy costs.
- Fairvue Farms will create additional revenue.
- The digestate by-product will be pathogen free, preventing harmful toxins from entering the local aquifers and drinking waters.
- The AD process will destroy methane, a harmful greenhouse gas.
- The construction and maintenance of the facility will create "green" jobs for the region.
- Fairvue Farms will serve as an Icon for the future of Connecticut Agriculture.
- The facility will serve as an important educational resource for surrounding communities.
- The facility will reduce odors and make us better neighbors.

The Energy Bills that you have before you go a long way to making this a reality. We would like our farm and the State of Connecticut to be a show place for these types of projects. This is a project we been working on for over 10 years. We hope this is the year.

Sincerely,  
Paul J. Miller