



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER



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The Connecticut General Assembly

By the Connecticut Department of Agriculture

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H.B. 6316 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION

Chairmen Meyer and Gentile, Vice Chairs Maynard and Albis, Ranking Members Chapin and Shaban and members of the Environment Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

The Department of Agriculture considers this a technical change meant to allow municipalities working with the state on the joint purchase of development rights to partner on easements to farms on which part of the agricultural land is situated in an abutting town.

CGS Section 22-26cc (e) provides for the joint municipal and state purchase of development rights; however, the statute limits the ownership by such municipality to land within its own boundaries. There are many instances when the state purchases easements on agricultural lands that are situated in two or more towns.

The decision to purchase joint easements should lie with the city or town. Municipalities should not be constrained from jointly holding such an easement with the state merely because a portion of the land is in an abutting town.

The Department of Agriculture respectfully requests this change.

Thank you for your time today and for your thoughtful consideration of this testimony. Please let us know if we can provide any additional information that would be helpful.