



State of Connecticut

SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

SENATOR ROBERT J. KANE
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**DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER PRO TEMPORE AND
CAUCUS CHAIRMAN FOR POLICY**

RANKING MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

MEMBER
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, Senator Chapin, Representative Shaban and the members of the Environment Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 6542, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION OF FARMLAND AT THE SOUTHBURY TRAINING SCHOOL.

This bill would transfer over 800 acres of farmland at the Southbury Training School from the Department of Developmental Services to the Department of Agriculture. This high quality farmland would then be permanently preserved, and would not be subject to any further commercial or residential development.

This area around the Southbury Training School has been determined to contain high quality farmland. If this land is permanently kept in agricultural use it will not only be a source of many healthy products, but it will preserve the historical and rural landscape we love so much about Connecticut. Some of this land has been leased for use by a local farmer, but a group selected by the Department of Agriculture to manage the farming activities on this land would maximize its value to the residents of Southbury.

I ask you to carefully consider this proposal. Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Rob Kane
Deputy Minority Leader Pro Tempore