



14 March 2013

Environment Committee
Room 2B, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

env.testimony@cga.ct.gov

Re: HB 6542 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION OF FARMLAND AT THE
SOUTHBURY TRAINING SCHOOL

Dear Committee Members,

I write to you on behalf of the Roxbury Conservation Commission. As you may be aware, in the State of Connecticut, municipal conservation commissions are charged to serve as the "Conservation Consciousness of the Community." We seek to preserve Roxbury's open space, agricultural lands, scenic views and roads, unusual or important natural features, and historic or aesthetic resources. Roxbury treasures its farming heritage.

To that end we offer our testimony regarding the protection of the Southbury Training School lands. Please be aware: 105 acres of this property lies within the boundaries of Roxbury.

Our commission is concerned about the rapid loss of farmland in our community, region, and the state of Connecticut. We fully support the passage of HB 6542 as a means to conserve this vital resource and a prudent investment in our state's economic future. We request that provision be made for the towns of Roxbury and Southbury to establish trails through the contiguous Training School properties for the quiet enjoyment of all. Please reflect on these important issues and approve the proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

Trudy Swenson McKinna
Roxbury Conservation Commission Chairman

On behalf of all Roxbury Conservation Commission members:

Hugh Rawson, Vice Chair
Cathy Masi, Secretary
Ron Faanes

Cecelia Santillo
Gary Steinman
Joni Weller