



Connecticut Farm Bureau Association

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March 22, 2013

Testimony in Support of: Senate Bill No. 1134 AN ACT CONCERNING OUTDOOR WOOD-BURNING FURNACES

Testimony stating concerns with: HB No. 5412 AN ACT CONCERNING DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS ON PRIVATE LANDS and HB No. 6305 AN ACT CONCERNING HUNTING IN PROXIMITY TO WILDLIFE PRESERVES.

Submitted by: Henry N. Talmage, Executive Director, Connecticut Farm Bureau Association

The following testimony is submitted on behalf of the Connecticut Farm Bureau, a statewide nonprofit membership organization of over 5,000 families dedicated to farming and the future of Connecticut agriculture.

Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile and Members of the Environment Committee:

SB 1134. AN ACT CONCERNING OUTDOOR WOOD-BURNING FURNACES; The Connecticut Farm Bureau supports SB 1134 and we believe it represents a positive step forward towards improving the utilization and operation of outdoor wood-burning furnaces in Connecticut. We are in support of the definition and requirement to burn "clean wood" in a effort to improve emissions contained in Section 1(a). We are also pleased that boilers installed before July 8, 2005 will be permitted to continue to operate as described in Section 1 (b)(1)(1). While we are in support of Section 2(c), we would like to see language that would allow units to be sold for scrap. In addition we would like to see language that new furnaces "comply with or exceed Phase 2 Standards" This would allow for cleaner burning, hi-tech furnaces from Europe and elsewhere to be utilized. Finally we would like to see the survey described in Section 2(e) be conducted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection with input from the Commissioner of Agriculture. Many of the outdoor wood-burning furnaces currently in use are not on farms and the survey might require the Department of Agriculture to divert significant resources away from critical agricultural programs.

HB 5412, AN ACT CONCERNING DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS ON PRIVATE LANDS: The Connecticut Farm Bureau is concerned that this bill might negatively impact farmer's ability to utilize the Deer Crop Damage Permit Program if the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection does not commit sufficient staff to administer the additional demands placed on deer management programs.

HB 6305, AN ACT CONCERNING HUNTING IN PROXIMITY TO WILDLIFE PRESERVES: The Connecticut Farm Bureau would like to see provisions to allow for qualified farmers located next to wildlife sanctuaries that experience significant crop loss be allowed to continue to utilize the DEEP Deer Crop Damage Permit Program.