Conservation and Agriculture Commission
Town of Lebanon
579 Exeter Road, Lebanon, Connecticut 06249
(860) 642-2006, Fax (860) 642-2022

To: Members of the Environment Committee
Date: March 3, 2014
Re: Raised Bill 5419, AAC the Preservation of the Savin Farm in Lebanon

We know we speak for many of Lebanon's townspeople in expressing our strongest support for Raised Bill 5419. The Savin Farm is a large active farm possessing important natural resources and an excellent recreation area in a town that makes a top priority of preserving agriculture and open space and conserving natural resources, as Lebanon has shown by its actions in the past and through its 2010 *Plan of Conservation and Development*. Accordingly, permanent protection of the Savin Farm through agricultural conservation easement is of utmost importance to Lebanon and the region.

In addition, the Savin Farm is part of a chain of preserved open space taking in Bartlett Brook and Exeter Brook (and associated wetlands) and stretching, with one small interruption, from state routes 16 and 207 southward all the way to the Yantic River. The farm is one of several abutting preserved properties along the Yantic River in Lebanon which has been named a State Greenway. This conservation effort has been an ongoing priority of the town and the Lebanon Conservation and Agriculture Commission. From a natural resources standpoint, future development of the farm would be catastrophic.

We therefore urge all legislators to support Bill 5419 for the sake of agriculture, conservation and the environment in eastern Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Marc Lang, Chair

Jan Fitter, Vice Chair