



**KOFKOFF EGG FARMS, LLC**

**Southern New England Egg**

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Testimony of Moark, LLC - Kofkoff Egg Farms  
To the Planning and Development Committee  
Regarding H.B. No. 5139 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF STATE FUNDS FOR THE  
INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PANELS ON PRIME FARMLAND.

February 21, 2014

To: Senator Osten and Representative Rojas , and members of the Planning and Development  
Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Moark, LLC - Kofkoff Egg Farms to offer input regarding H.B. No. 5139  
(RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF STATE FUNDS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PANELS  
ON PRIME FARMLAND. Kofkoff Egg Farms is a large egg production company with facilities located in  
Bozrah, Franklin, Lebanon, and Colchester Connecticut. With 4.7 million birds we are the largest  
commercial egg producer in Connecticut, and one of the largest suppliers of eggs to Connecticut's  
food stores. We employ close to 300 people in the state with an annual payroll of over 12 million  
dollars. Our feed mill in Franklin purchased over \$2 million of corn from local farmers during the 2013-  
2014 crop season representing over 3,000 acres of active farmland.

In addition to the business that we do here in Connecticut we are also committed to sustainability  
efforts and the support of all agricultural interests in the state. As a part of that commitment, we have  
completed the installation of two large solar energy arrays producing, in total, approximately 1.75 Mw  
of electricity annually. These projects were possible in a great part through the support of the  
Connecticut Clean Energy Fund. I believe that they are important projects for our organization and will  
help us to be able to continue to operate in future years here in Connecticut.

I would ask that during the review of this legislation thought is given to the ways that solar projects on  
farms may, in many ways, be in alignment with the support and emphasis that our state has placed on  
a strong, vibrant and sustainable agricultural economy. The support of the CCEF and its funding can  
provide relief for farmers from the high costs of energy as well as, through net metering, provide a  
resource, a cash crop of sorts, which may allow a potentially failed farm to continue to remain alive  
and thrive. Please consider carefully that farmers have many priorities and challenges and the  
potential for a project to allow for the continued maintenance of open spaces and active agricultural  
activity must be a part of the overall view of the issue at hand.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Pauzé  
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