



**Connecticut Farm Bureau Association**  
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**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 5,000 families dedicated to farming and the future of Connecticut agriculture.**

**Senator Bye, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee,**

**Testimony opposed to HB 6825 AN ACT MAKING DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATIONS AND ADDRESSING THE DEFICIT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2015.**

The Connecticut Farm Bureau opposes Section 5 of HB 6825 as it calls for the sweep of CIA funding in the amount of \$10 million from the Open Space and Watershed Acquisition program, \$5 million from Historic Preservation and \$100,000 from the Food Policy Council within the Department of Agriculture.

The Community Investment Act (CIA) was formed in 2005 to provide dedicated funds (outside of the general fund) to support worthwhile community-level investments across four sectors: Farmland Preservation/Agriculture, Open Space Conservation, Affordable Housing, and Historic Preservation. The CIA is funded through a \$40 surcharge on recording fees, which are distributed across those four sectors. The funding is tied directly to real estate activity and over the years has allowed for targeted investment of over \$130 million in 168 municipalities across the four sectors.

The sweeps outlined in HB 6825 as well as the diversion of CIA funds for FY16 and FY17 in the Governor's proposed budget would be devastating to the programs supported by CIA. It should be noted that these programs are not supported in any other way in the state budget so sweeping them will likely mean the end of these important programs.

The Connecticut Farm Bureau urges the Appropriations Committee to reject the sweeps outlined in Section 5 of HB 6825 to the Open Space and Watershed Acquisition program, Historic Preservation and The Food Policy Council and resist the temptation to turn this important, dedicated fund program into another tax to support the general fund.