

Dear members of the Finance, Revenue, and Bond Committee,

My name is Louis Lipton with Pleasant View Farms, Inc. I am a fourth generation farmer in Somers and I oppose Senate Bill #946. As former dairy farmers and now diversified cash crop and direct sales agriculturalists, the cuts proposed are detrimental to our sustainability. My family, as well as all dairy farmers in the state, depends on the AG Sustainability Account to get us through the tough economic times that we face with fluctuations in the market.

Pleasant View Farms is not dairy farming anymore but we sell our hay, grain and custom Ag services to many dairy farms in CT. We also received a farm transition grant in 2014 which helped us construct three commodity storage bins and begin a local grain milling and bagging plant on our farm where we produce and sell all CT grown grain products for a variety of local needs. This would have never been possible without these funds. Also, the CT grown program has helped us label and market our products. This is a key program to all CT agriculture from shellfish to vegetables and it gives us a brand that stands out.

In conclusion, all of the items in SB 946 are extremely important to Connecticut's almost \$4 billion dollar industry. I am strongly urging you to vote this bill down and continue supporting the state's farming community.

Thank you,

Louis Lipton
Pleasant View Farms, Inc.
Somers, CT