



Connecticut Farm Bureau Association
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February 24, 2015

Testimony in support of:

House Bill No. 5780 AN ACT LEGALIZING INDUSTRIAL HEMP.

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 Leone, Representative Baram and members of the Committee on General Law,

Farm Bureau supports HB 5780 as we support the production, processing, commercialization and utilization of industrial hemp as a specialty crop.

CT agriculture is increasingly becoming focused on the production of specialty crops as opposed to commodity production. It is important to nurture this transition by encouraging as many diverse agricultural products as possible to allow farmers to find their place in specialized niche markets. The production of industrial hemp should be allowed as an option for CT farmers and we therefore support HB 5780 as drafted.