

Planters' Choice Nursery, LLC

140 Huntingtown Rd
Newtown, CT 06470
203-426-4037 Fax: 203-426-8057

496 Bunker Hill Rd
Watertown, CT 06795
860-945-6588 Fax: 860-945-9282



We are writing this letter in support of House Bill 6731, An Act Concerning the Treatment of Certain Farm Land for Purposes of the Estate Tax. Exempting property classified as farm land under Public Act 490 from the estate tax would be of enormous benefit to many agricultural businesses that are looking to transition to the next generation, like ours, Planters' Choice Nursery.

We are sure that all members of your committee are aware that land is quite expensive in the state of Connecticut. Public Act 490 is one of the means that we can afford to farm the land, as that is the only viable preservation program for our segment of agriculture. We currently employ 70 people in peak season and are looking to expand, as we own land that is not currently in production, and there is a steady demand for more product than we currently supply.

House Bill 6731 would serve as an excellent reassurance that all land remain profitable for years to come, whether currently in use or available for expansion. We would venture to say that revenue lost from estate taxes would balance out quickly by allowing businesses like ours to focus on expansion and increased profitability. This would translate into more long term revenue for the state if farms didn't have to pay off debt from estate taxes.

We would lastly like to commend the committee for having the foresight to raise this bill in support of agriculture. We are proud to be second and third generation farmers, and look forward to passing this rich tradition on for many generations

Best Regards,

Chuck Newman
Owner

Darryl Newman
Principal