



**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 Doyle, Representative Reed and members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

Testimony in support of:

**H.B. No. 6020 AN ACT CONCERNING ANAEROBIC DIGESTION.**

The Connecticut Farm Bureau supports this Bill which will extend the current anaerobic digestion pilot program from three to five years and provide funding for the pilot program through the Connecticut Green Bank at four million dollars annually.

The Connecticut Farm Bureau supports agricultural-friendly energy policy that includes agricultural net-metering and encourages on-farm renewable energy generation to lower production costs and provide additional revenue to farmers. Anaerobic digestion and on-farm combined heat and power projects offer enormous potential for Connecticut's farms to use waste products such as manure and food waste and Connecticut grown renewable fuels and turn them into clean energy.

In Europe on-farm energy generation has become commonplace. In the Netherlands for example 20% of their domestic power generation comes from farms. They have recognized the significant benefits of having a strong local agricultural base and the economic and environmental benefits it provides to their rural communities. We encourage the adoption of HB 6020.

**H.B. No. 6983 AN ACT CONCERNING AGRICULTURAL CUSTOMERS AND VIRTUAL NET METERING.**

The Connecticut Farm Bureau fully supports House Bill 6983 which fixes an important flaw in the current agricultural virtual net metering law. House Bill 6983 amends the definition of "agricultural customer host" to allow for leases or long-term contracts for agricultural virtual net metering facilities. Whereas the intent to limit the definition to farmer-owned facilities was probably designed to limit participation to legitimate farming operations, in reality it has made very difficult for farmers to participate in the program. Agricultural virtual net metering projects often include third-party investors that are not interested in joining the farm business. Furthermore, many farming families have their land in a separate corporation or LLC which may have different owners from the operating company. The end result is that legitimate farming operations interested in utilizing the agricultural virtual net metering cannot because of the restriction. HB 6983 solves this problem and we encourage its adoption.