

Testimony in regards to S.B.946

To the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee,

I am David Morse, my cousin and I own May Hill Farm a family farm that has been in operation since 1835. We milk about 130 cows, grow 150 acres of corn and 70 acres of grass.

The Community Investment Act has been vital to our survival since the dairy support program was added, we have no control over the price we receive for our milk and it can change dramatically in a short time. For example the price we receive has dropped 30% in the last six months. Our input costs in Connecticut are higher than the rest of the country because of high land prices, availability of land and trucking cost for purchased feed.

The dairy industry is a multi-million dollar industry that puts most of the money that comes in right back into the local economy. Dairy farmers pay wages, buy feed, buy equipment and support the local businesses that service our industry. We use the land that the state has purchased development rights to, keeping the land open and in good tilth.

Overall the Dairy Support program ,Ag Viability and Farm Transition Grant programs and Farmland Preservation Unit are very important to our survival in Connecticut and I would ask you to not sweep the funds from these programs.

Thank you very much, David Morse

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