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Submitted by: Henry N. Talmage, Executive Director, Connecticut Farm Bureau Association, a statewide nonprofit membership organization representing 5,000 families dedicated to farming and the future of Connecticut agriculture.

Senator Coleman, Representative Tong and members of the Judiciary Committee,

Raised Bill No. 5258 –AN ACT CONCERNING A PROPERTY OWNER’S LIABILITY FOR THE EXPENSES OF REMOVING A FALLEN TREE OR LIMB.

The Connecticut Farm Bureau opposes RB No. 5258 as drafted because it does not extend the exemptions provided to timberland and forestland to farmland and open space categories. Farms often have significant amounts of woodland on their property and much of it located along property lines and on the edges of fields. Without an exemption for farmland and open space we are concerned that farmers and landowners with open space land would be compelled to remove wooded buffer areas along property lines in order to reduce their liability from fallen tree damage to neighboring properties. Therefore, we encourage the insertion of the following language on line 54 of the bill to exclude farmland and open space from the provisions of the bill. “(5) farmland as described in section 12-107c of the general statutes. (6) open space as described in section 12-107e of the general statutes”