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Submitted by: Henry N. Talmage, Executive Director, Connecticut Farm Bureau Association, a statewide nonprofit membership organization representing 4,000 families dedicated to farming and the future of Connecticut agriculture.

Senator Winfield, Senator Formica, Representative Reed and members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

Testimony on:

Governor's Bill No. 9 AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S ENERGY FUTURE.

The Connecticut Farm Bureau has long supported efforts to develop on-farm energy projects to reduce operating costs and provide additional revenue for farmers to help with farm viability. Agricultural Virtual Net Metering was designed to do just that while providing for expansion of diversified renewal energy.

On-farm anaerobic digestion projects in particular have proven to be very difficult to permit, finance and build and have not been built despite the many economic and environmental benefits associated with nutrient management(manure) and solid food waste management solutions they offer. CT Farm Bureau is pleased to see the attention paid to improving the chances of on-farm AD projects actually being built in the Governor's Bill No. 9.

We recommend aspects of the Bill be reviewed to reflect the following suggestions.

- The Bill limits the size of farm AD projects to less than 2MW therefore we encourage you to consider expanding the number of beneficial accounts to allow farmers more flexibility in securing outlets to sell their excess power generation.
- We appreciate that State meters appear to be allowed towards the primary 5 beneficial accounts for farm AD projects but it is unclear that State accounts will be allowed for Agricultural Virtual Net Metering.
- The Bill specifies that 5 additional accounts can be utilized for critical care facilities connected to a micro grid. We believe this is very limiting in that there are apparently very few critical care facilities that meet the criteria. We hope you will consider removing the micro grid requirement and open it up all critical care facilities.

The Connecticut Farm Bureau appreciates the movement towards a more favorable environment for on-farm AD projects contained in The Governor's Bill No.9 and we look forward to working with the Committee to help get farm AD projects built in the state.