

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in reference to the hearing on HB5534 on Monday, March 19, 2018. This Act Concerning the Classification of Farmland.

As I understand it, the Bill would prohibit municipal tax assessors from assessing a "zoning lot" or "homestead lot" on a farm if that land is actually being farmed.

Here in Killingworth, Ct, our Tax Assessor is taxing part of my property with a designated lot, other than my house lot, at the higher residential rate on 2 of my properties which are designated under Act 490 and have been for many years.

I have tried to talk to our assessor, but gave up. I have run my farms for over 30 years and the properties were purchased by my father in 1950-51. I have tried desperately to keep these properties whole, but the town is making it impossible to do so. This assement has created hardship in ways it should not have.

This is not the first time I have spoken up for my farming rights as well as others.

I hope this can be settled in a satisfactory way. Farming is very hard work, no matter what the endeavor. It will be very sad to see more farms sold off in Ct, but I'm afraid this is where we are heading if this issue isn't changed.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely Yours,
Julie Shepard
White Wood Farm Equestrian Training Center
90 Rt 80
Killingworth, Ct 06419
860-663-1345