



**TESTIMONY REGARDING:  
SB 845 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROCUREMENT OF ENERGY  
DERIVED FROM ANAEROBIC DIGESTION**

**Board of Directors**

Don Tuller  
President  
-West Simsbury

Paul Larson  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
-Woodstock

Melissa Dziurgot  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
-Durham

Keith Bishop  
Secretary/Treasurer  
-Guilford

Mark Fonicello  
-Stafford Springs

Candace Benyei  
-Redding

Ray Holden  
-Orange

Laura Marek  
-Torrington

Frank Lutwinas  
-Enfield

Rich Martin  
-Westbrook

Kies Orr  
-Thompson

Rachel Holden  
-Orange

Debbi Tanner  
-Brooklyn

Wayne Budney  
-Lebanon

**Executive Director**

Bryan Hurlburt  
78 Beaver Rd.  
Suite 2A,  
Wethersfield, CT 06109  
860.768.1100  
BryanH@cfba.org

**HB 5002 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GREEN NEW  
DEAL.**

February 21, 2019

Submitted by: Bryan Hurlburt, Connecticut Farm Bureau Association Executive  
Director

To the members of Energy and Technology Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding SB 845 AN ACT  
CONCERNING THE PROCUREMENT OF ENERGY DERIVED FROM  
ANAEROBIC DIGESTION and in support of HB 5002 AN ACT CONCERNING  
THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GREEN NEW DEAL.

The CT Farm Bureau Association is a private, non-profit, membership organization  
representing nearly 3,000 CT families dedicated to elevating the status of agriculture  
in our state through education, market promotion, and legislative advocacy.

Agriculture in CT is made up of over 6,000+ small businesses, contributing \$4 billion  
to CT's economy and employing 21,000, working 436,000 acres of land.

CFBA 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. Other states have created and supported an  
environment for farms to develop and bring anaerobic digesters on-line, while our  
projects are stalled in the design phase due to challenges that we believe this bill can  
address.

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. CFBA is pleased to see the attention paid to  
this technology and sees this technology as a great opportunity to support CT dairy  
farms that are struggling with high costs and low margins over the past five years.

We offer the following needs specific to creating a marketplace that would allow for  
on-farm generation projects to be successful:

- Include a specific on-farm generation category, in addition to the current 10-



megawatt aggregate;

- Allow for both the generation and sale of electricity and gas, depending on the project and region;
- Exempt manure transfer between farms from any waste permitting requirements;
- Create a tax credit to incentivize investors to invest in on-farm generation;
- Increase access, or mandate, Green Bank participation in on-farm generation projects;
- Create an alternative generation rate for energy produce by an on-farm generation project

On-farm energy production provides benefits to the consumer and the farm operation, in addition to contributing to the state's renewable energy goals. Counted among the many benefits of increasing on-farm energy production through anaerobic digester projects are the following:

- Alternative energy generation
- 24/7 energy generation
- Farm business operations:
  - Reduced energy costs in a high energy industry
  - Ability to mitigate phosphorus run-off
  - Ability to pelletize and sell phosphorus as a new source of revenue
- Carbon sequestration
- Food waste reduction
- Increased carbon reduction compared to other alternative energy sources
- Water quality improvement
- Micro-grid potential

## HB 5002 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GREEN NEW DEAL

CFBA would support provisions a Green New Deal that recognize and promote the environmental benefits that agriculture provides. Agriculture is an energy intensive industry with low profit margins, making it difficult to attract secure funding for energy efficiency projects or alternative energy generation that support the farm operation.

On-farm energy production can increase the resiliency of the electric grid through the potential to tie production into a community micro-grid. Anaerobic digesters can be used to take food waste out of the waste stream and use it to generate energy.

CFBA requests that on-farm energy production be explicitly included, and promoted, for access to any programs in the Green New Deal.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these two proposals and I would be happy to answer any questions from the committee.