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Testimony regarding SB 845 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROCUREMENT OF ENERGY DERIVED FROM ANAEROBIC DIGESTION.

Anaerobic digesters (AD) are very sustainable practices for farms and should be encouraged. We plan to add anaerobic digestion and the subsequent production of energy to our farm, Fort Hill Farms, Thompson, CT by 2020. Farms in particular, dairy farms, are ideally suited to provide this sustainable role and service to the people of CT because cows are always producing poop!

As we are a 4th generation farmstead stewards for Fort Hill Farms, there is quite a bit to request that State of CT make as a priority the siting of AD's on Dairy Farms but one main thing that would help greatly is:

Financial support - since AD projects are very capital intensive, dairy farmers could use additional financial support similar to other industries contemplating new technologies. Digesters would allow better organic waste management in the state of Connecticut where in spite of organic landfill ban since 2012, not much home has been found for this waste. Farm AD's keep the nutrients in the food cycle, not the waste stream.

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:

1. Alternative energy generation
2. 24/7 energy generation
3. Farm business operations:
 - a. Reduced energy costs in a high energy industry
 - b. Ability to mitigate phosphorus run-off
 - c. Ability to pelletize and sell phosphorus as a new source of revenue
4. Carbon sequestration
5. Food waste reduction
6. Increased carbon reduction compared to other alternative energy sources
7. Water quality improvement
8. Micro-grid potential

Farm Anaerobic Digesters can be very sustainable practices in CT if given the chance. AD's have been treated like the Black Sheep of the renewable energy family in CT and can be proven to have a premium Sustainability Index.