



**CFBA TESTIMONY OPPOSING:**

**SB 2 AA INCREASING THE MINIMUM FAIR WAGE.  
HB 5004 AA INCREASING THE MINIMUM FAIR WAGE  
HB 7191 AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE**

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

To the members of the Labor Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the proposals to raise the minimum wage.

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. In our state, agriculture is made up of over 6,000+ small businesses, contributes \$4 billion to CT's economy, employs 21,000 people, and works 436,000 acres of land.

CFBA opposes the schedule of the minimum wage increases as proposed in the three proposals. Most CT farms are small businesses, usually family operated, working in a difficult environment with many challenges outside of their control. A significant challenge that CT farmers face is that our cost of production per \$100 of goods is one of the highest in the nation. CT farmers face national competition for their products and the price competition translates to lower profit margins for these businesses.

A longer schedule of increases would allow farmers to better absorb the impact of the increases. A \$0.50 per year increase would be a more manageable increase. This would allow our businesses to better manage increased costs.

CFBA requests that agriculture employees be included in the reduced rates for learners, beginners, and persons under the age of 18. This would address a major concern for those employees who are hired on for planting or harvesting but are not typically full time employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.