



3 March 2021

Dear Co-Chairs Cohen and Borer, Vice-Chairs Slap and Gresko, Ranking Members Miner and Harding, and members of the Environment Committee:

On behalf of the Northwest Conservation District, I would like to voice my full support to the testimony given by Denise Savageau, Chairman of the Connecticut Council of Soil and Water Conservation, to the Environmental Committee on March 3, 2021 regarding support of the inclusion of soil health in sections 3, 4, and 5 of HB 6496 -AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN SOIL-RELATED INITIATIVES.

The Northwest Conservation District (NWCD) is set up by State Statute to assist the Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) with the coordination of soil and water conservation, protection, and management across Northwestern Connecticut. NWCD services 34 towns in Litchfield, Hartford, Fairfield, and New Haven counties. Our purpose is to provide leadership and take initiatives for locally led conservation with the goal to protect and conserve the soil, water, other natural resources, and agriculture of Northwestern Connecticut.

Soil health is a vital component in the definition of soil and should be included in any State recognized definition.

Thank you for your consideration,

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