Connecticut GREENHOUSE Growers Association
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Honorable Members of the Environment Committee:

My name is Susan Pronovost and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association. This organization represents the interests of more than 200 greenhouse growers in the State of Connecticut. The Connecticut Greenhouse and Nursery Industry represents 53% of the $4 billion agricultural economy [agricultural economic value according to UCONN].

I would like to take this opportunity to state our organization's opposition to Raised Bill 5156, *An Act Concerning A Climate Change Superfund.* Our opposition is rooted in our concerns to potential economic risk and unintended downstream consequences for farmers and food producers if this bill is enacted.

Although this bill targets fossil fuel extractors and refiners, agriculture could bear a sizable share of the economic burden as costs are passed down the line. Energy, fuel, fertilizer, plastics, transportation, and refrigeration are essential farm and greenhouse inputs. Any cost recovery demand imposed on upstream energy and refining entities will inevitably be passed down the supply chain, increasing costs for farms already under severe financial pressure. For most producers and family farms, there is no practical way to absorb or pass on these increases to our customers. The result will be reduced farm viability.

This proposed legislation imposes retroactive liability for emissions dating back nearly 30 years. This would introduce profound uncertainty into energy and commodity markets that agriculture depends upon. Market volatility caused by this uncertainty may disproportionately (and unintentionally) harm farmers who rely on predictable input pricing to plan production cycles that operate on slim margins.

The proposed bill's language acknowledges impacts to agriculture; however, it does so primarily by categorizing farming as a sector harmed by climate rather than offering solutions.

Farmers are already implementing climate-adaptive practices such as soil health and structural improvement, water management, conservation tillage, nutrient management.

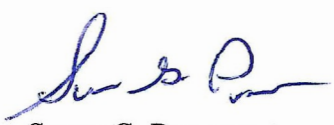
This legislation creates a centralized funding mechanism controlled by DEEP, with no guaranteed allocation to working lands, on-farm resilience, or producer-led adaptation projects. There is no assurance that funds extracted from agriculture-dependent supply chains will be reinvested in ways that directly benefit farms.

The Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association and its members support – *and participates in* – climate adaptation and on-farm resilience measures. This proposed legislation relies on a punitive, retroactive assessment-and-fines model that will inevitably shift costs onto all consumers including farmers. This proposal contains no long-term foreseeable benefit to working lands.

A more effective and equitable approach would focus on a partnership with agriculture that would facilitate forward-looking solutions and direct investment in farm-level climate resilience, rather than imposing recovery mechanisms that will certainly affect every downstream consumer and farmer.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our point of view with the Committee. As always, we stand ready to answer questions or provide further engagement on the subject.

Sincerely,



Susan G. Pronovost
Executive Director