

PA 11-249

HB6262

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**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**ENVIRONMENT
PART 5
1371 – 1695**

2011

Particularly in Keeney Park in Hartford we've experienced a lot of illegal dumping, and those people, those bad actors who want to continue to do this and flagrantly violate our environmental laws of the State of Connecticut to the extent they do it more than once and have to pay more than \$99, and that fine goes up almost a couple hundred percent, I believe is not a bad idea.

Again, we're not here to penalize those who abide by the laws, but those who want to again, pollute our waterways or our parks and our streams. We believe there could be a heavier price to pay.

So that is my testimony and I appreciate the Committee's time today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. ROY: Thank you. Any questions or comments from members of the Committee?

REP. RITTER: Thank you. Have a nice day.

REP. ROY: Boy, you officials are getting let off easy. Representative O'Neill. Is he here? Don't see him. All right. Representative O'Neill will be given space when he arrives, and so with that, we will move on to the public portion at 11:17, according to our clock on the wall. This is excellent. Good start.

Our first speaker will be Amy Peterson, or Paterson. It's on Bill 6263 and she will be followed by Kachina Walsh-Weaver. Amy Paterson? Kachina. Okay, Kachina's here. She will be followed by Martin Mador. Good morning, Kachina.

KACHINA WALSH-WEAVER: -- Committee before. Very quickly, I have four bills in front of me that I have an interest in, the first one being 6263. We've had extensive conversations with proponents of the bill.

HB 503
HB 6262
HB 505
SB 1020

CCM wants to be on record as having some concerns with the fact that this would change the way Ten-Mil Properties are valued at the time of reassessments. Instead, we've urged proponents of the bill to consider a municipal option approach, leaving the discussions to happen at the local level between municipal chief elected officials and property owners.

In addition, I ask that the Committee as they do look at this bill moving forward, it has been explained to us by the Department of Environmental Protection that this bill would require reassessment of these properties based on 490 land values instead of the current and best use.

However, the properties would continue to stay in the Ten-Mil Program and they would continue to have the corresponding penalty and the commitment for the next 50 years remain in tact, and it's a little unclear to us. I just would like, hope that the Committee would clarify that.

CCM is also going to speak very quickly in support of Raised House Bill 6503 and 66, sorry, 6262, both concerning funding first for the Conservation Districts and the second for the Community Investment Act. Both of these are extremely worthy causes, worthy programs, that provide needed funding across the state, and these bills, sorry, would have no state impact.

Lastly, we do oppose Raised House Bill 6505 AN ACT CONCERNING STREAM FLOW REGULATIONS. This bill would restart the clock of what DEP has been working on with regarding the stream flow regulations. It would include groundwater.

We see this as being very problematic, and we would instead encourage the General Assembly's

support of Raised Senate Bill 1020 AN ACT CONCERNING WATER RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, which was heard in the Commerce Committee last week. Thank you.

REP. ROY: Thank you, Kachine. Any questions or comments from members of the Committee? Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS: Just on the stream flow situation.

KACHINE WALSH-WEAVER: Yes.

REP. DAVIS: I know negotiations are supposed to be going on. You have concerns that, including the groundwater would change the direction of the negotiations or put us back at the starting point again with a different standard to work on. Is that correct?

KACHINE WALSH-WEAVER: Correct.

REP. DAVIS: Okay, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. ROY: Thank you. Any other questions or comments from members of the Committee? Seeing none, thank you. Has Amy Paterson come in? I think we surprised everybody by going as quickly as we have.

Martin Mador followed by Jean Bouteiller.

MARTIN MADOR: Good morning, members of the Committee. I'm Martin Mador. I'm the Legislative Chair for the Connecticut Sierra Club. I'm also a Director of Rivers Alliance and the Quinnipiac River Watershed Association.

I'm going to do a three-minute romp through eight bills if I can. Let me mention a few in passing.

SB205
HB6262
HB5387
SB1117
HB6263
HB6503
HB6505
HB5518

S.B. 205 is the bill about mercury thermometers. Mercury is clearly a toxic. This is an exposure problem where the thermometers get into the way stream. This is an excellent bill along the lines of extended producer responsibility.

The littering bill makes a lot of sense, but there's no definition in the bill of what a second offense is, and I think the bill needs to be expanded so it's clear of what it actually means.

HB5387

Take back for meds is a very significant problem. This bill sort of, 1117 kind of addresses that. Briefly, at least some education about what the rules are.

In my testimony, I've indicated what the federal advisories are for disposal of unwanted meds and I'm wondering how many people actually understand what those rules are.

Conversion of the Ten-Mil Properties is a bill that should have happened last year. It's a good bill that makes sure these properties are going to remain open space, and please pass the bill again this year and let's make it happen.

HB6263

We need to protect the Community Investment Account and make sure payments continue from that so the Bill 6262 that protects these is good.

Finally, funding for soil and water conservation (inaudible) is important. If it's not through the budget, do it through the fees.

HB6503

Now, the bill I really want to talk to on, are the stream flow regulations bill. The regulations have been in process for six years pursuant to a bill passed in '05. The bill passed unanimously in both Chambers.

HB6505

to a program that has protected Connecticut family forests for nearly 100 years. Thank you.

REP. ROY: Thank you, Jean. Any questions or comments from members of the Committee? Are you just waving, or did you want to speak, sir?

SENATOR MEYER: Just waving.

REP. ROY: Thank you. Thank you, Jean. Amy Paterson, have you returned? You have. Okay. Then followed by Allen Herkimer.

AMY PATERSON: Thank you very much. For the record, again, Amy Paterson. I'm the Executive Director of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council, and I thank you very much for hearing my testimony today.

I'm actually here to support both Bills 6262 concerning the Community Investment Act as well as 6263 on the Ten-Mil.

I'd like to spend, and this goes to your point, I would like to spend more of my time on the 6262 Community Investment Act.

So what I'd like to say for the record is that for all the reasons that were just stated by Jean the landowner that just spoke, we are also in support of this bill to extend the Ten-Mil Program and make the amendments to allow the landowners to benefit from the current rates now under 490.

On Bill Number 6262 the Community Investment Act, as you know, that Act was enacted in 2005. It's funded through a surcharge on recording fees. The revenue from those fees go into the Community Investment Act fund, which funds four separate program by the state, open space, farmland

preservation, historic property and affordable housing.

Two years ago that program was expanded so that the program would also include the dairy industry safety net, and we support 6262 as it removes the sunset provision for that dairy program.

What's remarkable about the Community Investment Act is that it is so far reaching in terms of its impact. We all know that the projects that it supports go to and support the quality of life in each of our towns.

But the statistics on the programs, and how they have impacted our economy are really remarkable and are worth noting here for the record.

According to the latest figures that we have compiled, and these are figures compiled through the agencies of the state as well as other studies. The CIA has provided funding for over 562 projects in 145 towns, including at least 26 of the state's 32 distressed and targeted investment municipalities, and it has gone on then to leverage match monies for and on behalf of those communities.

Overall, 200 percent in matching funds from private, federal and local sources have been raised to match the state's CIA dollars, funds which have been invested directly back into those communities.

The CIA funds have also created a need for jobs, both at the state and private levels. We have 14, at least 14 staff positions at the state agencies, all due to CIA funding, and those positions go to support the programs that the CIA projects are for.

In the private sector, the CIA projects have created approximately 2,000 jobs since 2006 in affordable housing and historic preservation sectors ranging from construction to tourism, et cetera.

In short, the impact on both the quality of life and our economy from the CIA overall has been remarkable and we thank you very much for your support of that Act and we encourage you to remove that sunset provision on the dairy industry safety net so as to allow that program to continue at its fullest. Thank you very much.

REP. ROY: Thank you, Amy. Any questions from members of the Committee? Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER: I just want to thank you for your good advocacy. It is a wonderful policy and a wonderful Act and it's doing good things for people in Connecticut and I thought you outlined those benefits very well.

AMY PATERSON: Thank you very much.

REP. ROY: Thank you. Any other questions or comments? Seeing none, Allen Herkimer, followed by Joan Nichols.

ALLEN HERKIMER: Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Raised Bill 6263 AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSITION FROM THE TEN-MIL PROGRAM.

My name is Al Herkimer and I live in Cornwell Bridge. I am a stockholder and third generation resident of Dark Entry Forest Incorporated, a 765 acre wildlife end forestry preserve.

I would support H.B. 6263 with the suggested modifications.

I would also support a transition to PA-490 that would include making up back taxes to the 490 level from the 1972-73. I think that was the year when there was a previous exit window. Thank you.

REP. ROY: Thank you very much. Any questions or comments from members of the Committee? Good, because the speaker left. Mary Pelletier, and she will be followed by Carlene Kulish again?

A VOICE: (Inaudible).

REP. ROY: Mary Pelletier has left? Okay. Don Turner, excuse me. Don Turner here? Okay? And followed by Ben Bowell. Bowell, excuse me.

DON TULLER; Representative Roy, members of the Environment Committee, Don Tuller, President of Connecticut Farm Bureau, here to speak in support of 5203 AN ACT CONCERNING THE AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON THE LANDS OF THE SOUTHBURY TRAINING SCHOOL.

The Farm Bureau submitted electronic testimony on five bills. One of the problems is, you do have a lot of bills that are important to us, so it is hard sometimes to pick the most important.

The assumption that state-owned land, prime and important farmland owned by the state is already protected, I think this bill shows and recognizes that in fact it's not protected and needs to be protected.

The Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee identified this property and several others that need to be put under conservation easement so

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that they are permanently protected. There will be virtually no cost to the state and this would be a very cost-effective move that would have a tremendous value for the agricultural production capacity of the state, which would kind of limit some of these annexations that are happening by local communities that then convert important farmland to other uses.

6263, the Ten-Mil Program, this is a necessary upgrade to that or correction, just anticipation of appreciation land value, just, no one ever anticipated that it would put them in such a difficult position, so this is a necessary fix.

H.B. 6262 AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACT, it is, it's essential that the sunset provision be removed. The crisis in continuing to keep dairy in that program, it's been remarkably successful and there is a need.

If down the road the federal pricing formula between cost of milk and inputs, you know, if that gets better then it will cease to function, so it's critical that we keep this, remove the sunset.

AN ACT CONCERNING CONSERVATION DISTRICT FUNDING, H.B. 6503 just getting a dedicated stream, and they do important work for both the communities, for the towns, the agricultural community and the individual landowners.

And 6505 AN ACT CONCERNING STREAM FLOW REGULATIONS, agriculture was assured that we would be taken care of in the first round. Then no concerns were addressed when it was rejected by Reg Review. I mean, even after the public comment period we expressed our concerns. They were ignored.

REP. ROY: Nick, thank you very much. Any questions or comments from members of the Committee? Seeing none, thank you.

We will now move back to Item Number 2, Bill 5203. Ben Bowell, followed by Gordon Gibson.

BEN BOWELL: Chairman Meyer, Chairman Roy, members of the Committee, thank you very much for the opportunity to testify before you today. I am Ben Bowell with the Working Lands Alliance, a statewide coalition of individuals, organizations and businesses focused on preserving Connecticut's farmlands.

My comments will focus on three bills. First, House Bill 5203 AN ACT AUTHORIZING AN AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON LANDS OF THE SOUTHERBURY TRAINING SCHOOL. The preservation of state-owned farmland is a top legislative priority of the Working Lands Alliance and we strongly support House Bill 5203.

Despite a growing agricultural industry, we continue to lose precious farmland in Connecticut, including land held by the state.

In recent years, there have been nine transfers to non-state entities amounting to 165 acres of farmland lost.

House Bill 5203 presents an opportunity to move closer toward the state's goal of preserving 130,000 acres of farmland at no cost to the state.

HB 6262
HB 6263

In January of 2010, the Farmland Preservation Advisory Board submitted recommendations to the Commissioner of Agriculture and this Committee to permanently preserve more than 1,300 acres of state-owned farmland on six properties.

Granting an agricultural conservation easement on the farmland of Southbury Training School is an important first step toward the implementation of these recommendations.

I have also delivered written testimony in support of this bill for several members of our coalition.

Second. House Bill 6262 AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACT. The continuation of the Dairy Support Program under the Community Investment Act is a top priority of the Working Lands Alliance. Connecticut's dairy industry contributes over \$1.1 billion to the state's economy and employs over 4,000 people.

Dairy farms steward over 70,000 acres of farmland and provide fresh, local milk to residents.

Due to a federal milk pricing system that does not account for the high cost of production in our region, the Connecticut dairy farmers are often losing money when they produce milk.

A change to the CIA in 2009 created the Agriculture Sustainability Account to correct this disadvantage and saved our state's dairy businesses.

We strongly support the continuation of the state's policy. This program will strengthen the general health of the agriculture industry in Connecticut by sustaining a major user of agriculture inputs and services while also stabilizing a critical mass of farmland with potential to be preserved.

And I just wanted to express our support for a third bill, which is House Bill 6263, the transition to Ten-Mil. Thank you.

government to focus and get Congress to move in the right direction.

But I just thought it was really amazing that we are not alone in this, in the big, you know, the super producers are also having huge problems with the milk pricing.

But thank you for your testimony and we'll continue to work on it, because I think the program has been extremely successful and has really become a national model for us. So thank you, Ben and thank you for the Committee's time.

BEN BOWELL: Thank you.

REP. ROY: Thank you, sir. Any other questions or comments from members of the Committee? Seeing none, thank you very much.

BEN BOWELL: Thank you.

REP. ROY: Gordon Gibson, followed by Sandy Breslin.

GORDON GIBSON: Thank you. Good morning, Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, members of the Committee. I'm Gordon Gibson, Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors and Legislative Liaison for the Connecticut State Grange.

We're speaking today on three bills, 5203, 6262 and 6263. The state has an active program to purchase and preserve 130,000 acres of prime farmland by purchasing and holding the development rights to that land.

The Grange recommends and encourages the state to preserve the more than 1,300 acres of prime farmland it already owns on six parcels. The preservation of the farmland at Southury Training School would be a significant step in that direction, and would not cost the state anything

other than the staff time to complete the transaction. Notice that it wouldn't cost the state anything.

The bill mandates that the easement be held by a nonprofit organization dedicated to permanently protecting agricultural lands because no entity, including the state, can hold an easement on land owned in fee simple.

Connecticut Farmland Trust, Incorporated is such an organization and partners with the state in preserving our valuable farmland.

In terms of our valuable farmland, I don't know how many of you saw the front page of this morning's Courant, where among our major exports from Connecticut are now corn and wheat. Interesting, because we haven't grown wheat in many years.

I also want to speak this morning in support of Raised Bill 6262, which would make permanent the current distribution of funds generated by the Community Investment Act, which are now scheduled to sunset on July 1st.

This sunset provision would terminate the portion of the program that provides funds to help correct a complicated federal milk pricing system, which does not take into account the high cost of milk production in Connecticut.

In addition to providing fresh local milk, Connecticut's dairy farms occupy over 70,000 acres of farmland, which could be vulnerable to development if our dairy farms go out of business. That's land, 70,000 acres, that's in dairy that is not subject to preservation easements, yet.

In addition to this our dairy industry provides about 4,000 full-time jobs and contributes approximately \$1.1 billion annually to Connecticut's economy.

In addition to assisting our dairy industry, the Community Investment Act funds, which are scheduled to sunset, helped develop and sustain new farm enterprises.

It's one thing to preserve prime farmland from development, but we must also encourage and support the active farm, was that mine, it's active use to raise crops to preserve it as farmland and prevent it from reverting to woodland and other natural growth. In other words, we've got to protect it from Mother Nature.

I'll skip over the rest of Bill 6262 and in the interest of time, I will just say the Grange supports Raised Bill 6263 concerning the Ten-Mil Program. We have heard much testimony on that this morning and I need not repeat that.

SENATOR MEYER: Thank you for your good articulation, Mr. Gibson, and for your wonderful service as usual.

GORDON GIBSON: Thank you.

SENATOR MEYER: Do the members of the Committee have any questions or comments? Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Gibson for being here, and everyone who has come up to testify on this. I think it's a particularly critical time when we look at oil prices going up again and we realize that food travels from farm to plate an average of 1,500 miles, and that we're losing our prime farmland in Connecticut.

So I think we need to constantly remind ourselves that we need to look to producing in our own state. So I really appreciate your being here.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

GORDON GIBSON: Thank you.

SENATOR MEYER: Thank you, Representative Urban. Any other questions? Representative Miner.

REP. MINER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I also thank you for coming up today. On Bill 6262, one of the concerns I have about permanency is that we have other industries, other livelihoods in the state that are under similar pressures, and yet we have no permanent monetary assistance to them.

Why should this be different?

GORDON GIBSON: My own personal concern, Representative Miner, is that we need to eat, and as Representative Urban just said, our food travels an average of 1,500 miles to reach us.

Never mind the cost of transporting it for a minute. Right now a lot of our food comes from foreign countries. The United States today is a net food importing country.

Now what would happen if some of these foreign countries that were shipping us food said, hmmm, look at what they've done in the Middle East with an oil cartel. What can we do if we put in a food and vegetable cartel? Or a grain cartel? We could be hungry in a hurry.

If a terrorist group were to come in and knock out all the bridges on the Hudson River, our food supply is so hand to mouth right now that our shelves in our grocery stores would be empty in

about two or three days if food could not come across the Hudson River into the New England area.

If we're going to eat, we need to grow our food at home.

REP. MINER: And I share your interest in trying to move us in that direction, but would I be wrong if I pointed out to you that this benefits the dairy industry, and not necessarily the other agricultural operations that produce other food sources?

GORDON GIBSON: I would agree with you, Representative Miner. However, we all drink milk. Even those of us such as myself who are lactose intolerant sneak a little milk into our coffee or have a glass of chocolate milk now and then.

We need to produce the milk because our dairy farmers have to pay to bring the grain in from other parts of the country. It just costs them more to produce their milk than they're receiving for it as it leaves the farm. How long can any business keep going when the cost of their inputs are more than they're receiving for their wholesale product?

REP. MINER: And so, the issue isn't food production as much as it is milk production.

GORDON GIBSON: That's right.

REP. MINER: Thank you.

SENATOR MEYER: Thanks, Representative Miner. Any other questions from the Committee? Thanks, Mr. Gibson.

GORDON GIBSON: Thank you.

totality of land that's there at the Training School. So we're really talking about those lands that were originally set aside to provide food and hay and support the activities at the Training School.

I would love to invite you all to come and visit this property. It's some of the most spectacular property in the State of Connecticut. It's really gorgeous and it's incredibly important ecologically as well as for the agricultural legacy and future of Southbury.

SENATOR MEYER: Questions or comments from the Committee? Good job.

SANDY GRESLIN: Thank you very much.

SENATOR MEYER: Thanks. Next is Henry Talmadge, followed by Tom Crider.

HENRY TALMADGE: Good morning, Senator Meyer, members of the Committee. My name is Henry Talmadge. I'm the Executive Director of the Connecticut Farmland Trust.

I'm here to express the Connecticut Farmland Trust's support of House Bill 5203 AN ACT AUTHORIZING AN AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON THE LANDS OF THE SOUTHBURY TRAINING SCHOOL.

CFT is the state's only private nonprofit organization dedicated exclusively to the preservation of working land. We hold agricultural conservation easements on privately owned farms and assist with families throughout the process of protecting their land. CFT is a member of the Working Lands Alliance Coalition.

CFT wholeheartedly supports 5203 as it provides a mechanism to permanently protect this critical agricultural parcel, that although currently

HB 5203

HB 5203

The residents of Connecticut recognize that protecting our precious farms are important to the need, for the future use of agriculture and food production in the state.

I'd also like to raise the support for 6263 regarding the Ten-Mil Program and as well as 6262 the Community Investment Act. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

SENATOR MEYER: Thank you, Mr. Talmadge. We do appreciate the work of the Farmland Trust. It makes a big difference for us.

Are there any questions or comments from the Committee? Thank you.

Our last witness on this bill is Tom Crider from Southbury.

TOM CRIDER: Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Tom Crider. I'm President of the Southbury Land Trust and I'm here to speak in favor of Bill Number 5203.

The Southbury Land Trust is a nonprofit whose mission is preserving farmland and other open space, and as such we would be qualified as holders of the conservation easement authorized by this bill.

I was going to go into the overall reasons, excellent reasons for preserving farmland in the State of Connecticut but so many other people have spoken to this, I think I'll just zero in on some very specific points here.

I attached a map showing the Southbury Training School property with my testimony. I hope you have it. It shows the Training School has, covers over all 1,400 acres and only about 250 of

Certainly that size development would be going to DOT and the STC. It's over their threshold. So all those things and more, we believe, are already very well considered by a multitude of local and state agencies, and even sometimes federal agencies.

We don't think, though, that a new permitting program, particularly at DEP needs to be developed to handle those issues. I think they can be handled under our current processes.

SENATOR MEYER: Thanks, Bill. Any questions? Further questions? Appreciate it.

BILL ETHIER: Thank you.

SENATOR MEYER: Colleagues, we're now turning to House Bill 6262, which relates to the Community Investment Act. We have four witnesses on this, starting with, and the handwriting is difficult to read, Ben Freund. Did I get it right?

BEN FREUND: Freund. Pretty close.

SENATOR MEYER: Can you spell it for the record, because it's not clear here.

BEN FREUND: F-r-e-u-n-d. Freund.

SENATOR MEYER: Freund. Thank you. Good afternoon.

BEN FREUND: Good afternoon. Chairman, members of the Environment Committee, I am testifying in favor of Proposed House Bill 6262 AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACCOUNT.

As Chairman of the Connecticut Farm Bureau Dairy Committee, I want to thank this Committee for its wisdom in recognizing the importance of agriculture in Connecticut, and especially with

its work creating and supporting the Community Investment Act.

My brother Matthew and I own and operate a 270-cow dairy in East Canaan, Connecticut that annually provides over 660,000 gallons of fresh milk to support the good health and well being of Connecticut residents.

We own 455 acres and rent 350 additional acres. The milk we produce is only part of our story. The open spaces, wetland recharge areas, recreational backdrops, employment as significant economic multiplier inherent in the basic production of goods all happens because we make milk.

Dairy is the foundation of agriculture in Connecticut. We are stewards of the preponderance of open space and provide the demand for goods that attracts the specialized infrastructure to Connecticut that supports all of agriculture.

Our dairy sector alone generates over \$1 billion of economic activity that directly supports the \$3.5 billion agricultural economic engine.

Since the Community Investment Act began to support the Agricultural Sustainability Account that funds the dairy safety net, we have worked diligently on the federal pay price system with insufficient success.

Representative Courtney is the first Connecticut congressman in over 100 years to serve on the House Agricultural Committee. He understands how important agriculture is in our state and has positioned himself to help. This afternoon he is visiting a dairy farm in northeastern Connecticut.

Senator Jilobrand from New York State last week announced an effort to change the federal system to avert the pending dairy crisis that cannot wait until the 2012 farm bill is enacted. The issue is documented. Dairy is not in sync with the strong surges in our major inputs of corn, soy, fuel and fertilizer.

We need a safety net to be here to provide all the security that a local fresh food supply guarantees.

Since 1997, the energy that heats the farm home and heats all the hot water used in our milking center is generated by burning methane harvested from our cow manure.

Our fields are minimally tilled to save energy and reduce the environmental carbon load. We test soils twice a year to prescribe the precise amount of fertilizer to feed plants and avoid any excess. I'll be real quick.

We always close our annual harvest with cover crops to conserve the soil and provide green manure in the spring. We graze animals during the growing season to take advantage of natural harvesting and nutrient spreading characteristics of a cow.

Our farm represents many decades of hard tuition invested in learning how to marry our valuable natural resources with efficient production systems that provide wholesome food for our neighbors, and I'll just conclude.

My brother and I want to continue to feed our state and our families. We need more security than the federal price system provides. The dairy business is too volatile to attract the next generation to learn and thrive with the systems that we have developed on our farms.

Our value to Connecticut is too important to let our industry decline to an unsustainable level. Please support the proposed bill to remove the sunset and continue to provide a safety net to our industry so we can provide food security, enhance conservation, open space and important economic activity for the state. Respectfully submitted, Benjamin Freund, Dairy Farmer.

SENATOR MEYER: Thank you, Mr. Freund, and best wishes on your farm. Are there any questions?
Representative Willis.

REP. WILLIS: Yes. Hi, Ben.

BEN FREUND: How are you?

REP. WILLIS: Thank you for all your work that you've done on these issues over the years, and certainly for all the countless hours that you've put in on saving the dairy industry in Connecticut. You deserve a lot of credit for that.

But I wanted to talk to you a little bit about the importance, or ask you, actually, for specifics. Now with increasing fuel prices, that has to have an incredible impact in terms of cost on dairy farming, and in relation to what we were able to do last year with the Community Investment Act, how much ground are we losing?

BEN FREUND: In terms of on our farms?

REP. WILLIS: In terms, yeah, in other words, we helped.

BEN FREUND: Right.

REP. WILLIS: But then at the same time we've seen this incredible increase in fuel prices and so

are you back where you started? I guess that's what I'm asking.

BEN FREUND: We're at a point on our balance sheets, where it's extremely difficult. We're basically in 2010, we're at best in a break even mode if you will, in the industry across the State of Connecticut.

Without the help through the Community Investment Act it would have been a highly negative year following 2009, which was a devastating year and you would have seen, I think, a rapid exit from the dairy industry in Connecticut just because the banks would have been foreclosing.

So it was a critical, critical time, and the idea of this program that's so important is that it is a safety net program. This is not a given. It's not something that's going to happen. It only happens when our cost structure gets out of line to pay structure, and that's the way it was designed, and that's the way it's come into being.

In fact, I think in the last quarter if you look, there's actually monies that were not disbursed because it had met the criteria of the program. So it is simply, it is a safety net program that has functioned very, very well over the last two years and I think has supported this critical mass of dairy farmers, which does support the critical mass of agriculture in the state.

Because, why would you get services into a state without dairy farmers? The rest of agriculture doesn't provide that demand that we do that supports the rest of our industry.

REP. WILLIS: So going forward this still is an incredible resource and needed for the dairy

industry to survive here in Connecticut, you can unequivocally say.

BEN FREUND: Yes. It's something that's (inaudible), and part of that is the failure of the federal system to recognize it.

And we've done yeoman surveys. Representative Courtney serving on the Ag Committee was a huge feather in his cap and you couldn't see him on the TV, but sitting next to Courtney at the State of the Union address was fellow dairyman, Robin Chesner. That was fabulous that Courtney chose a dairy farmer to be sitting next to during the State of the Union address because he understands the issues.

But, it's very difficult, and as Representative Hurlburt had mentioned earlier, consensus across the U.S. is difficult and progress across the U.S. has been very, very slow. And when you get commodity surges like we've seen in the last 12 months, or actually the last 4 months, and then dairy gets out of sync of that, you just go backwards very, very quickly.

So having the safety net program to recognize that at the end of each quarter is very important.

REP. WILLIS: Thank you. And thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR MEYER: Thank you, Representative Willis. Any other questions? Any other questions?
Representative Miner.

REP. MINER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. Are you aware of auNITENy markets outside of the State of Connecticut for dairy products that might be improving in the future?

BEN FREUND: Well --

REP. MINER: Do you envision, does anyone within the dairy industry in Connecticut envision a point at which exports might actually improve our fiscal climate for dairy farms?

BEN FREUND: Well, the actual State of Connecticut is a milk deficit state, so we don't produce enough milk, even for our own needs. So basically all the milk that's produced within the borders of the State of Connecticut is going to fluid consumption. So it's feeding our school children. It's feeding our residents. And then beyond that, we import milk from New York State and Vermont probably would be the two principal states where milk comes in from.

And the milk shed as it happens across the United States is, you know, it kind of moves everything closer. So that's why, even though you have on our borders you have this milk, but then all milk will tend to shift toward the population centers.

We don't have a trailer that comes from Idaho, for example, that's a big milk producing state, all the way to Connecticut, but on our borders, that milk does tend to flow into milk to meet the deficit.

So we're already in a pretty significant deficit in the state in terms of milk production.

REP. MINER: In terms of the market itself, however, if there were other markets for our milk products, would that not improve the market for milk, even here in Connecticut?

BEN FREUND: No. No. It's interesting, and that's why this federal system doesn't recognize that we're a consumer state and the increased price of farming side by side with your neighbor who is not a farmer, and there's a lot of extra costs.

The cost of fuel and energy in the State of Connecticut is a bit legendary. So we're having to work with all those things that further away places do not have to, but we're all based on the same, the price that we receive for our product is nationally set.

REP. MINER: Okay. And to the extent that milk may not be as profitable as other agricultural opportunities on the same land, is there any universal thought that perhaps dairy should be part of a larger agricultural picture, but not as prominent a part of the agricultural picture in an effort to try and improve the stability, improve the financial picture for farmers and lessen the dependence on aid.

BEN FREUND: Well, I think that you'll see, if you were to go to any individual farm across Connecticut today, you'd see milk production being prominent on our dairy farms, but you'd also see, in fact, that just because it's following me, you know, consortiums that have developed. The other products, my neighbor markets compost. We market cow pods in a planter container that we've developed, you know, based on cow manure.

My sister-in-law operates a market side by side with ours. But I can tell you that unfortunately those, we haven't found the secret bullet, if you will, to profitability.

And the other thing to take in mind with dairy is that this is something, it's a structure that evolves over time and it's got a very long time horizon in terms of when, you know, a calf is born until it produces milk. You've got a couple of years tied up in that.

Then the whole idea of a longer term horizon in our whole economic picture, so it's not a business that you can lightly go into and out of. You basically get your structure, your infrastructure developed on your personal facility, and then you're tied into that.

You can't easily, I mean, I can't take and convert, you know, acreage to grapes or to something else easily if I've already geared up that I need the corn to make silas to feed my animals. So it doesn't lend itself to going in and out of various aspects to meet, maybe a specialty crop that's, you know, got a lot of interest this year.

But again, remember, we're a milk deficit state, and as dairymen, one thing, the other thing you don't want to do is to become too broad in what you do and become kind of, what do they call it, you can do a little bit of everything poorly or one thing well, and I think that as dairymen we need to focus on our milk production and doing a good job of that.

That's complex enough, so running in and out of these other businesses is not a real easy thing. Back in the seventies it was grow broccoli, you know, but it isn't an easy thing to get in and out of.

REP. MINER: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR MEYER: Thanks, Representative Miner. Any other questions? Appreciate it, Mr. Freund.

BEN FREUND: Thank you much.

SENATOR MEYER: Well done. Our next witness is Paul Miller, followed by Helen Higgins. Is Mr. Miller here?

MATT PECKHAM: I'm not Paul Miller. Paul is in another meeting and he asked me to speak on his behalf. I'm Matt Peckham, another dairy farmer from Woodstock. You have my testimony. I hope that works.

SENATOR MEYER: Can you spell your name?

MATT PECKHAM: Yeah. Matt Peckham. P-e-c-k-h-a-m.

SENATOR MEYER: Thanks, Mr. Peckham.

MATT PECKHAM: So anyway, I've got my testimony here and I've got Paul's testimony here, and I'm taking Paul's spot, but I'd like to thank you for having me, and I'm obviously here to address 6262.

Just to tell you a little bit about myself, I'm a sixth generation dairy farmer in Woodstock. We farm 300 acres. I have four kids and 150 dairy cows. The farm has been recognized as a dairy distinction farm and we've also won the Century Farm Award.

I'm testifying today that just that we need to continue the funding for the Community Investment Act and remove the sunset clause for the dairy subsidy.

As we were just saying earlier, with the price of fuel, the milk checks that Connecticut's farmers are going to receive this spring are going to erode quickly. Fuel, grain and fertilizer are all pretty much tied to the price of fuel as grain, corn goes into ethanol production and fertilizer is a derivative from fuel production. Everything's going to become more expensive

We have been very fortunate to have the dairy subsidy and I can't say enough, how much it means to us. You know, it has allowed us to continue

our farms in Connecticut where, and not go tremendously backwards in debt like other states have had to the point where now you've lost your family's home, everything.

I think that there's six of us here today, so I think that shows how much it means to all the other farmers and I'm proud to be part of the six dairy farmers who made it out here.

Connecticut's dairy farms has a \$1.1 billion industry. We really return much of our revenue back to local economy. As I look at our own figures, we return more than half of our milk check back into local businesses. It's safe to say that Connecticut's dairy industry is the backbone of the state's overall agri business.

You know, we are the consumers of products from fertilizer and grain and seed and all the suppliers, so without us, you know, we are the ones who are pretty much keeping their doors open.

The Community Investment Act also has funded the farm reinvestment grants and ourselves, we have taken, we've just been accepted for a second farm grant, so it's meant, it's really broad reaching and we're hoping that you'll continue to support it. Thank you.

SENATOR MEYER: Okay, Mr. Peckham, thank you. Appreciate your farming experience as well. Any questions? Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to ask you a tough question, and I don't want you to take it as my position. But, it's one that will creep up and has crept up a little bit.

Are we funding a sinking ship, and what happens if we discontinue the level of funding that we

have? What happens to our agriculture? What happens to our farming industry, and what happens to those related services? Is this something that, is this something that's costing us more, or is it an investment in Connecticut that is actually producing more for our economy?

MATT PECKHAM: Well, you know I'm going to say that you're not funding a sinking ship.

The fact that the money coming out of the Community Investment Act is coming from a fee structure, and we have, you know, we have that money. It's not coming out of the general fund, so we have to look at it that way.

But it's like so many things. We look at dairy, and we look at you know, we're having a rough time. But as farms progress and as families realize what's happening in dairy and we diversify and modern technology has come along.

I can tell you, if you came to my farm now and you came to my farm ten years ago, it's a totally different place, you know.

My grandfather passed away in '04. I took over the farm at 24 years old and everybody told me I was nuts. You know, we went from 80 cows to 150 cows, and we went from about 5,000 pounds of milk a day shift to 9,000 pounds of milk a day, and we've grown and we've expanded, and you know, people who just want to drive things can make things happen.

So, no, I don't think dairy is sinking. I see the young people who are coming into dairy, younger than I am, I'm not a young person any more. The kids who are coming out of FFA and the kids who are coming out of the ag colleges are really vibrant, and that's something that I've

noticed a lot lately, that, you know, we've got, we're in a good position in this state.

We've got a lot of great land and we're in a good position to see dairy grow. So no, I don't think we're going backwards at all.

SENATOR MEYER: That's a good report. I'm glad to hear that.

MATT PECKHAM: Thank you.

SENATOR MEYER: Any other questions or comments? Thank you, Mr. Peckham. Our next witness is Helen Higgins.

HELEN HIGGINS: Thank you, Senator Meyer, members of the Environment Committee. My name is Helen Higgins. I am not a dairy farmer, but I am here to testify in favor of House Bill 6262.

The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation is Connecticut's statewide nonprofit historic preservation organization. We were founded, we're chartered by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1975, and we're a partner with the Commission on Culture and Tourism.

The Community Investment Act provides critical funding for historic preservation grants and projects as well as for affordable housing, open space protection and farmland preservation.

This bill clarifies distribution of Community Investment Act funds to the agricultural sector, including the dairy industry. I want to be here to make sure you understand that we have a large coalition that supports the Community Investment Act and I think I'm representing it at the moment.

We are from Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, the Coalition for, there was a Partnership for Strong Communities, thank you, Connecticut Housing Coalition, various open space organizations from the Nature Conservancy to the Audubon Club and also all the farm groups that you heard here today.

So, I want to say that we represent a large coalition that supports the impact of the Community Investment Act, and I did, I don't know on your testimony if you have our little sheet, a one sheeter on the second page.

I mean, this is our kind of, you'll see this all around and we're saying that the Community Investment Act equals jobs and you've heard that from the dairy farmers, but it's also true in affordable housing as Amy Paterson pointed out, and through an historic preservation.

We match with private money all the investments that have been made. Fifty-six million dollars has gone out into the community from the Community Investment Act so I urge your support, not just of this bill, but of, I thank you for your support also of the Community Investment Act over the years.

SENATOR MEYER: Thanks, Miss Higgins. Thanks for your advocacy.

HELEN HIGGINS: Yes.

SENATOR MEYER: Questions by the Committee members?
Yes. Senator.

SENATOR MAYNARD: Helen, good to see you. Thank you very much. I think it's worth pointing out in the event that there are others listening that are not familiar, that this is not a budget line item. These are funds raised from the local

community that return to the local community based on building permits and other fees paid at town hall.

So it's not as if we're competing and trying to compete with others who are funding from the state government at a difficult time. This is just, this was a solution brought to the Legislature and wonderfully successful over the last, I think is it four or six years now --

HELEN HIGGINS: Six years.

SENATOR MAYNARD: -- and one that we ought to defend. So I count myself among the coalition of supporters. Thank you for being here.

HELEN HIGGINS: I would like to say that, thank you, Senator Maynard, starting on April 18th in the walkway between the Capitol and the Legislative Office Building we're going to have a display of success stories from the Community Investment Act, and I think that will make you proud of what you've done here.

SENATOR MEYER: Thank you, Senator Maynard. Any other questions on this? Thanks, Miss Higgins.

Colleagues, we're now going to turn to House Bill 6503, which is AN ACT CONCERNING CONSERVATION DISTRICT FUNDING and we have one witness, Denise Savageau. Did I pronounce that right? Savageau?

DENISE SAVAGEAU: Savageau.

SENATOR MEYER: Savageau. Soft g.

DENISE SAVAGEAU: Soft g. Good afternoon. Again, my name is Denise Savageau. I'm the Conservation Director for the Town of Greenwich and in that role I serve on the Southwest Conservation District and I am the President of the

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**ENVIRONMENT
PART 6
1696 – 2016**

2011



Audubon CONNECTICUT

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ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING
March 7, 2011

TESTIMONY OF
SANDY BRESLIN, DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
AUDUBON CONNECTICUT

IN SUPPORT OF:

H.B. 5203 AN ACT AUTHORIZING AN AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON THE LANDS OF THE SOUTHBURY TRAINING SCHOOL.

H.B. 6263 AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSITION FROM THE TEN MILL PROGRAM.

H.B. 6262 AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

Audubon Connecticut, the state organization of the National Audubon Society with more than 10,000 members statewide, works to protect birds, other wildlife and their habitats through education, science and conservation, and legislative advocacy for the benefit of people and the earth's biological diversity. Through our network of community-based nature centers, protected wildlife sanctuaries, and local volunteer Chapters, we seek to connect people with nature and inspire the next generation of conservationists.

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to address you today. Audubon Connecticut, the state organization of the National Audubon Society *strongly supports* the intent of H.B. 5203, *AA Authorizing An Agricultural Easement on the Lands of the Southbury Training School* that seeks to protect farmland and farm operations in the Town of Southbury while also protecting a key parcel of protected habitat for wildlife. This proposal is a **no-cost** way to help us meet our state farmland preservation goals, while also helping to conserve habitat for some of our state's most endangered bird species.

The estimated 900 acres of undeveloped, state-owned fields, shrublands, and woodlands at the Southbury Training School (agricultural and associated lands) form the heart of a nearly contiguous swath of protected land that runs from Good Hill Airport in Roxbury to the Housatonic River in Southbury, including the 750 acres of land owned and managed by the Audubon Center at Bent of the River. Taken together, these lands (which do not include the major structures of the School) offer a rare landscape of protected grassland and shrubland habitat that is fast vanishing in the State of Connecticut. Some of the birds that utilize this land include: Bobolink, Eastern meadowlark, Brown thrasher, Long-eared owl, Savannah and Field sparrow, American kestrel, wintering raptors and other open

incurring a penalty. Connecticut's core forestlands are fast disappearing, primarily as a result of fragmentation due to development. This proposal would help to protect the important habitat, timber resources and scenic beauty of these historic forests areas.

H.B. 6262 AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACCOUNT.

As a member of the Community Investment Act Coalition, Audubon Connecticut supports the provisions of H.B. 6262, *AAC The Community Investment Account*, which will allow for continuing and much-needed support of Connecticut's agriculture economy, particularly dairy, and farmland preservation.. The Community Investment Act (CIA) program is currently the key mechanism that provides funding to sustain farming, protect open space, preserve historic structures, and create affordable housing in our state. Dairy farm viability is easily affected by fluctuations in the price of milk, and since this type of agriculture utilizes the largest amounts of land, loss of dairy farms can result in substantial loss of key agricultural and associated open lands. Continuing the current funding allocation for CIA will promote jobs, create partnerships and help to improve quality of life in Connecticut. We urge the Environment Committee to support this legislation and the good public policy it promotes. To learn more about the job creating impact of the Community Investment Act:

[http://www.communityinvestmentact.org/Get the Flyer .php](http://www.communityinvestmentact.org/Get_the_Flyer.php)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these important matters.



Connecticut State Grange

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

**TESTIMONY OF THE CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE IN SUPPORT OF
RAISED BILL NO. 5203, AN ACT AUTHORIZING AN AGRICULTURAL
 EASEMENT ON THE LANDS OF THE SOUTHBURY TRAINING SCHOOL,
RAISED BILL NO. 6262, AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY
 INVESTMENT PROGRAM AND
RAISED BILL NO. 6263, AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSITION FROM
 THE TEN MILL PROGRAM**

I am Gordon Gibson of Vernon, Vice Chair of the Board of Directors and Legislative Liaison for the Connecticut State Grange. I am speaking today in support of Raised Bill 5203, An Act Authorizing an Agricultural Easement on the lands of the Southbury Training School, Raised Bill 6262, An Act Concerning the Community Investment Program and Raised Bill No. 6263, An Act Concerning the Transition from the Ten Mill Program.

The State has an active program to preserve 130,000 acres of prime farmland by purchasing and holding the development rights to that land. The Grange recommends and encourages the State to preserve the more than 1300 acres of prime farmland it already owns on six parcels. The preservation of 1300 acres of farmland at Southbury Training School as proposed in Raised Bill No. 5203 would be a significant step in that direction and would not cost the State anything other than the staff time to complete the transaction. The bill mandates that the easement be held by a nonprofit organization dedicated to permanently protecting agricultural lands because no entity, including the State, can hold an easement on land it owns in fee simple. Connecticut Farmland Trust, Inc. is such an organization and partners with the State in preserving our valuable farmland.

The Grange also supports Raised Bill No. 6262 which would make permanent the current distribution of funds generated by the Community Investment Act which is scheduled to sunset on July 1, 2011. This sunset provision would terminate the portion of the program that provides funds to help correct a complicated federal milk pricing system which does not take into account the high cost of milk production in Connecticut. In addition to providing fresh local milk, Connecticut's dairy farms occupy over 70,000 acres of farmland which could be vulnerable to development if our dairy farms go out of business. Our dairy industry provides many full time jobs and contributes approximately \$1.1 billion annually to Connecticut's economy. In addition to assisting our dairy industry, the Community Investment Act funds which are scheduled to sunset on July 1, 2011 help develop and sustain new farm enterprises. It is one thing to preserve prime farmland from development, but we must also encourage and support its active use to raise crops to preserve it as farmland and prevent it from reverting to woodland and other natural growth. The State has many programs to encourage the development and growth of new businesses and the employment they provide. Raised Bill No. 6262 will continue the programs now in place that encourage the development and growth of new farm businesses and the employment they provide.

3/7/2011

•••

Gregory Peracchio
Hytone Farm, LLC.
2047 Boston Tpke.
Coventry, CT 06238

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in regards to H.B. 6262- An Act Concerning the Community Investment Account. As a CT dairy producer, I strongly support the safety net that the CIA provides. The original intent of this program was to buy dairy farmers some time while a national program was developed. Over the last year, it has become clear that a national program will not take into account the regional differences and additional cost of production for farmers in CT. Since dairy has proved its value to the state in the areas of open space, economic strength, and a safe, local food supply, I urge the committee to remove the sunset provision that will cause dairy farmers to lose the support of this valuable program. I feel proud to be a CT dairy producer, and am happy to have the opportunity to continue the legacy of my family's farm. The CIA has helped many CT dairy farms, and in turn, the farms have provided a great value to the State of Connecticut.

I thank the committee for its time and consideration on this very important matter. This means a lot to me as well as the other dairy farmers of CT.

Gratefully yours,

Gregory Peracchio
Co-owner
Hytone Farm, LLC.

Jason,

As you well know the payments to dairy farmers are do to sunset this spring. Since September corn prices have gone up from \$3.50 to \$7.10 per bushel, all other feed inputs have followed to some extent or another. At the same time milk prices have softened. So what does this mean at the farm level, as of March the cost to feed the milking herd has gone up \$2.00 per # [that's just the milking herd, not heifer raising, fuel costs ect.]

It truly is a shame that this problem does not get solved at the national level, but in the mean time farmers desperately need the support of the state.

Please act to continue these necessary payments!

Vern Bahler
Bahler/ Oakridge Farms

P.S. The dairy farmers of CT. are the last people that want a Gov.. hand out!

Environment Committee,

As you well know the payments to dairy farmers are do to sunset this spring. Since September corn prices have gone up from \$3.50 to \$7.10 per bushel, all other feed inputs have followed to some extent or another. At the same time milk prices have softened. So what does this mean at the farm level, as of March the cost to feed the milking herd has gone up \$2.00 per # [that's just the milking herd, not heifer raising, fuel costs ect.]

It truly is a shame that this problem does not get solved at the national level, but in the mean time farmers desperately need the support of the state.

Please act to continue these necessary payments! Support bill # 6262

Thankyou!

Vern Bahler
Bahler/ Oakridge Farms

P.S. The dairy farmers of CT. are the last people that want a Gov.. hand out!

My name is Ned Ellis from Hebron CT. My family has been in Hebron since the 1700's. I operate Mapleleaf Farm with 230 milking cows and 220 replacement heifers. We grow 275 acres of corn and 150 acres of grass. In 2003 we sold our development rights on two hundred & fifty acres of our farm to be preserved for the future through the Farmland Preservation Program.

Two years ago the legislature, through the CIA, provided monetary relief to Connecticut dairy farms, at a time when the price we were receiving for our milk was only 50% of our cost to produce it. The residence of our state will never realize how many farms were saved through this action. These funds provided a safety net when dairy prices were extremely depressed. The federal milk pricing formula does not take into account the higher costs of production, here in the northeast, especially in Connecticut. To date, the federal milk pricing formula has not yet made progress in addressing this inequity. We need to continue the safety net provided by HB 6262.

We need local products here in our state to stay HERE ! Dairy farms provide Connecticut with a working landscape, clean air from growing crops, a filter for our state's aquifers, and a place for hunters, fisherman and outdoor enthusiasts alike. This is hard to place a monetary value on! In addition, the dairy industry contributes over \$1 Billion to the state's economy along with many jobs.

We need HB 6262 to remove the Sunset Provision, to provide Dairy Farmers with the stability they need.

Thank you,

Ned Ellis
Mapleleaf Farm
768 Gilead St
Hebron, CT 06248



Working Lands Alliance
A Project of American Farmland Trust

Date: March 7, 2011

To: Environment Committee

HB 6262: AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

Submitted by: Ben Bowell, Acting Project Director, Working Lands Alliance

The following testimony is submitted on behalf of the Working Lands Alliance, a statewide coalition of caring individuals and more than 200 organizations and businesses working together to raise awareness of the need and importance of saving Connecticut's valuable and vanishing farmland.

The continuation of the dairy support program under the Community Investment Account is a top legislative priority of the Working Lands Alliance.

Signed into law in 2005, the Community Investment Act (CIA) is a landmark piece of legislation which helps further the goals of protecting and preserving the beauty and unique character of Connecticut for future generations. The CIA provides increased funding for a wide range of agriculture viability, dairy farm support, historic preservation, open space, and affordable housing programs. The CIA has been a tremendous success and as of January 2011 has provided over \$47 million through granting programs to 562 projects in 145 towns in Connecticut. Over \$82 million in funds from private, federal, and local sources have been raised to match the state's CIA dollars.

The Community Investment Act has created an unprecedented coalition of farmers, environmentalists, historic preservationists, and housing advocates which strongly agree that dairy farmers should continue to be supported through this program.

Connecticut's dairy industry contributes over \$1.1 billion to the state's economy and employs over 4,000 people. Dairy farms steward over 70,000 acres of farmland and provide fresh, local milk to residents.

Due to a federal milk pricing system which does not account for the high cost of production in our region, Connecticut dairy farmers are often losing money when they produce milk. A change to the CIA in 2009 created the Agriculture Sustainability Account to help correct this disadvantage and saved our state's 157 dairy businesses.

This program will expire July 1, 2011. WLA strongly supports the removal of this sunset provision and continuation of the state's policy of funding a dairy farm safety net. This program will strengthening the general health of the agriculture industry in Connecticut by sustaining a major user of agriculture inputs and services, while also stabilizing a critical mass of farmland with potential to be preserved.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee on this important issue.

WLA Testimony - 3/7/11
Page 1 of 1

**Connecticut Farm Bureau Association**

775 Bloomfield Ave., Windsor, CT 06095-2322

(860) 768-1100 • Fax (860) 768-1108 • www.cfba.org

March 7, 2011

Testimony in Support of:**H. B. No. 6262 AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACCOUNT**

Submitted by: Donald Tuller, President, Connecticut Farm Bureau Association

The following testimony is submitted on behalf of the Connecticut Farm Bureau, a statewide nonprofit membership organization of over 5,000 families dedicated to farming and the future of Connecticut agriculture.

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and members of the Environment Committee:

The members of the Connecticut Farm Bureau Association urge your support for Raised Bill No. 6262 AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACCOUNT. The changes that were made to the Community Investment Act, to help the Connecticut Dairy Industry need to be extended, and that is the intent of this bill. The price that Connecticut dairy farmers receive for their milk is dependent on a federal formula that does not currently take into account the higher costs that dairy farmers in the Northeast face. We did assume that progress was going to be made in the last 20 months to correct the problem on a Federal level. This did not occur. That is why we are seeking to remove the sunset, and this bill does that. The Connecticut dairy industry is still the backbone on Connecticut Agriculture, providing the critical mass in regard to agricultural infrastructure that the rest of Connecticut agriculture depends on. Should the price that farmers receive improve enough, relative to the price of inputs, the payments to farmers would cease, based on the formula in the program. We would just as soon not be making this request, but this program is still desperately needed and we urge you to support this proposed legislation.

Thank you: Don Tuller President of the Connecticut Farm Bureau Association

Support Raised Bill 6262: Written Testimony submitted to the CGA Environment Committee Public Hearing- Monday March 7 2011.

Submitted By: Peter M. Orr, Fort Hill Farms, LLC, Thompson CT
Member: The Farmer's Cow, Very Alive, CFBA Dairy Committee, CT Milk Promotion Board

Please support House Bill 6262 – An Act Concerning the Community Investment Account (CIA). A core goal of this bill should be to remove the sunset provisions that would end the Agricultural Sustainability Grants to dairy farms by the Community Investment Account. CT Dairy Farms continue to be under financial stress similar to conditions for when the Agricultural Sustainability Grants were originally put into the CIA. Unfortunately, the conditions have not changed and no progress has been made with Federal Milk policy and pricing reform. Currently, federal milk pricing formulas do not account for the cost of producing milk in CT. It should be pointed out that the CIA trigger formula contained within the current CIA does not produce a payment when the cost of production is below what a dairy farm receives for the price of milk. So therefore, the CIA formula triggers a payment only when needed and does not trigger when a payment is not financially justified by the formula. In other words, the dairy safety net only pays out when needed and should not be viewed as an open-ended unregulated payment. The Agricultural Sustainability Grants only pay out when the need arises and I would respectfully request that this dairy safety net be allowed to remain in place as there is a sound fair financial basis underlying it. Please remove the CIA sunset provisions.

In today's world, it's all about jobs and economic impact. By official studies from University of Connecticut, CT Agriculture is a 3.5 Billion dollar industry with 20,000 jobs. CT Dairy is over 1 Billion Dollars of this economic value to CT as well as several thousand jobs. CT Dairy provides the infrastructure for the overall Agricultural economic engine in CT as well as the primary place-holder of the CT Agricultural land base for which there are long-term investments being made through land preservation efforts. In addition, CT Dairy Farms contribute substantial environmental ecosystem services to our state. All of these contributions by CT Dairy farms to the State Of Connecticut can continue by simply removing the sunset provisions of the CIA and allow the Agricultural Sustainability Grants be made by the fair formulas contained with it. There is considerable leverage of the return on investment for the CIA Agricultural Sustainability Grants to CT Dairy Farms. One can view these grants as stimulus payments for a great opportunity to grow agriculture in the future for the State of Connecticut and its economy!

The Community Investment Account funds the Agricultural Viability Grant program, the Farm Transition program, the CT Grown program, the Farmlink program, the CT Farmland Preservation program as well as the Agricultural Sustainability Grants to CT Dairy Farms. I request your support in continuing this funding for all these programs as it is a great package of opportunity to grow Agriculture and thereby the economy for Connecticut.

Respectfully Submitted, Peter M. Orr, Thompson CT, 06277



Environment Committee
Public Hearing - March 7, 2011

Testimony of
Betsy Crum, Executive Director
Connecticut Housing Coalition

Support: H.B. 6262 - An Act Concerning the Community Investment Account

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony today. My name is Betsy Crum and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Housing Coalition. The Housing Coalition represents the broad, vibrant network of community-based affordable housing activity across the state. Our more than 250 member organizations include nonprofit developers, human service agencies, resident associations, and diverse other housing practitioners and advocates. Founded in 1981, the Coalition works to expand housing opportunity and to increase the quantity and quality of affordable housing in Connecticut.

The Connecticut Housing Coalition joins with our other statewide coalitions in strongly supporting H.B. 6262, AA Concerning the Community Investment Account. This highly effective financing vehicle, enacted as PA 05-228, directs document recording fees to four important uses: farmland protection, historic preservation, open space and affordable housing. Two years ago, the General Assembly and then-Governor Rell passed legislation to expand the CIA to provide two years of funding for a dairy safety net paid when federal prices fall below the cost of production. Bill 6262 would remove the sunset provision and ensure that this critical assistance to the dairy industry would be continued.

The Community Investment Act supports activities that typically have no other source of funding. Since its inception, the Act has given rise to 562 projects in 145 towns and leveraged twice its investment in local dollars. It is estimated that Community Investment Act projects have created approximately 2,000 jobs since 2006. These projects both support our economy and make our cities and towns more livable, attractive and vibrant.

The Community Investment Act represents ongoing, irreplaceable revenue for important investments across our state. Please support H.B. 6262 and continue to extend this program to the dairy industry. Thank you for your consideration.

I am writing to support H.B. 6262. The support for dairy farmers through the Community Investment Act has been invaluable. This bill would remove the sunset provision. It is vitally necessary to keep this legislation a a safety for the CT dairy industry. The CT dairy industry's economic contribution to CT of over 1.1 billion dollars has been well documented. The fresh local food and preservation of open space are intrinsically valuable to the CT life experience. If prices are fixed on a national level and returns to CT dairy farmers are sufficient, this fund would make no payments. As a dairy industry we are always striving to that goal. Please support H.B. 6262 to keep this vital safety net in place for the future of the CT dairy industry. Thank you
Thomas Peracchio Hytone Farm Coventry

Subject: House Bill 6262

As a CT Dairy farmer the support that the Connecticut has given us over the years is invaluable. In a time where many other states were turning a blind eye to the struggles in the dairy industry, Connecticut stood up and believed in our future. My Partner and I are young, 22 to be exact, and are moving into our 3rd year in the dairy industry. We entered the business when prices were at there lowest and we were able to benefit from the sustainability money that you provided to support all of the Connecticut Dairies. While all of these payments over the last couple quarters have help tremendously in the survival of our farm and all the other farms in Connecticut, the industry is still very unstable and until there is the federal milk pricing system is revamped to take into consideration of the cost of producing milk in Connecticut, we need the support of Connecticut and this bill now more than ever to get through these unstable times in the industry. CT dairy farmers contribute a positive impact of \$1.1 billion annually to the economy, not to mention the tremendous positive impact we have as stewards of the land. The Beautiful picturesque landscape of Connecticut can be attributed to our hard work as dairy farmers. The support of our industry supports Connecticut and its landscape as you know it. Please Do Not remove the sunset provision, do it for the future of farming and give young farmers like my partner and I the opportunity to be successful dairy farmers in this great state. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,
Tim Kinsella & Katlyn Hoskinson
Co-Owners of Birch Mill Farm

03/07/2011
Benjamin Freund
326 Norfolk Road
East Canaan, CT 06024

Chairmen and members of the Environment Committee:

I am testifying in favor of Proposed H. B. No. 6262 AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACCOUNT.

As chairman of the Connecticut Farm Bureau Dairy Committee, I want to thank this committee for its wisdom in recognizing the importance of agriculture in Connecticut and especially with its work creating and supporting the Community Investment Act.

My brother Matthew and I own and operate a 270 cow dairy farm in East Canaan, CT that annually provides over 660,000 gallons of fresh milk to support the good health and well being of Connecticut residents. We own 455 acres and rent 350 additional acres. The milk we produce is only part of our story. The open spaces, wetland recharge areas, recreational backdrops, employment, and significant economic multiplier inherent in the basic production of goods, all happens because we make milk.

Dairy is the foundation of agriculture in the State. We are stewards of the preponderance of open space and provide the demand for goods that attracts the specialized infrastructure to Connecticut that supports all of agriculture. Our dairy sector alone generates over 1 billion dollars of economic activity that directly supports the 3.5 billion dollar agricultural economic engine.

Since the Community Investment Act began to support the Agricultural Sustainability Account, that funds the dairy safety net, we have worked diligently on the federal pay system with insufficient success. Representative Courtney is the first Connecticut congressman in over 100 years to serve on the House Agricultural Committee. He understands how important agriculture is in our State and has positioned himself to help. This afternoon he is visiting a dairy farm in Northeastern Connecticut. Senator Gillibrand from NY State last week announced an effort to change the federal system to avert the pending dairy crisis that cannot wait until the 2012 Farm Bill is enacted. The issue is documented. Dairy is not in sync with the strong surges in our major inputs of corn, soy, fuel, and fertilizer. We need a safety net to be here to provide all of the security that a local fresh food supply guarantees.

Since 1997, the energy that heats the farm home and heats all of the hot water used in the milking center is generated by burning methane harvested from the cow manure. Our fields are minimally tilled to save energy and reduce the environmental carbon load. We test soils twice a year to prescribe the precise amount of fertility to feed the plants and avoid any excess. We always close our annual harvests with cover crops to conserve the soil and provide green manure in the Spring. We graze the animals during the growing season to take advantage of the natural harvesting and nutrient spreading characteristics

of the cow. Our farm represents many decades of hard tuition invested in learning how to marry our valuable natural resources with efficient production systems that provide wholesome food to our neighbors.

All of these practices represent years in developing an environmentally aware industry that contributes much more than the obvious products, adding great benefits through sensitive production systems. Connecticut farmers are not only in compliance but also lead the way showing the rest of the country how land conservation and preservation can be accomplished. We know because we live side by side with non farming neighbors how to be good neighbors. We not only use, we preserve open space and enhance wildlife corridors that can disappear in a heartbeat. Our neighbors appreciate this value and it is documented with hard numbers in the UCONN Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Connecticut's Dairy Industry Report presented to this legislature.

My brother and I want to continue to feed our state and our families. We need more security than the federal milk price provides. The dairy business is too volatile to attract the next generation to learn and thrive with the systems that we have developed on our farms. Our value to Connecticut is too important to let our industry decline to an unsustainable level. Please support the proposed bill to remove the sunset and continue to provide a safety net to our industry so we can provide food security, enhanced conservation, open space, and important economic activity for Connecticut.

Respectfully submitted,
Benjamin Freund
For the Connecticut Dairy Industry

Testimony To The Environmental Committee: HB 6262 An Act Concerning the
Community Investment Account:

Matthew R. Peckham
Elm Farm LLC
Woodstock CT.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the Environmental Committee. My name is Matthew Peckham. I am a sixth generation dairy farmer from Woodstock. My wife and I have four children aging from nine years old down to one. We have a milking herd of 140 cows, and farm over 300 acres. Our farm has been recognized as a Connecticut Dairy of Distinction, and we have received the Connecticut Century Farm Award.

Today I am testifying that we need to continue the funding for the Community Investment Act. Connecticut's dairy farmers have been given a much needed lifeline through the Dairy Subsidy provided by this act. The milk checks which Connecticut's farmers will be receiving this spring are going to be quickly eroded by extremely high prices for fuel, grain and fertilizer. The price of fertilizer is tied to fuel due to it's methods of production, and as we all know in the age of ethanol, cow grain now follows the pricing of gasoline.

It is likely going to be many years before Washington is able to provide America's small family dairy farms with a pricing formula that eliminates the extreme market swings which we have been facing since 2006. In the past couple of years New England has seen many small farms disappear. Connecticut dairymen are thankful for the subsidy provided by the CIA act, and we are asking you to please consider the positive effect this distribution has on the overall agricultural economy of the state.

Connecticut's dairy farms, as a \$1.1 billion dollar industry return much of their revenue to the local economy. Looking at our own figures we return more than half of our own milk check back Connecticut's businesses. I also think it is safe to say that Connecticut's Dairy industry is the backbone of the state's overall agribusiness. Due to the fact that we raise both cows and crops means we are supporting suppliers from seed and fertilizer sales to large animal veterinarians. There is no portion of Connecticut's supporting agribusinesses that are not relying on dairy farmers for the bread and butter portion of their income. Therefore any distribution made to my family goes far beyond keeping food on the table for my wife and I and our four children. The community investment act truly invests in many different areas of our community.

In conclusion I'd like to thank you all for the support you have offered in recent years to our farm families. This session, please support HB 6262. It will mean a lot to me to see my children have the opportunity to run our farm as the next generation of Connecticut dairy farmers.

Matthew R. Peckham
137 Dugg Hill Rd
Woodstock CT 06281

If you have any comments I can be reached at ~~860-233-5827~~

The goal of this bill is to remove the sunset provision that would end the support for dairy farmers in the Community Investment Act. It is necessary to continue the dairy safety net in CT, because progress has not been made in correcting the federal milk pricing formulas that do not account for the costs of producing milk in CT. The CT dairy industry contributes over \$1.1 billion dollars in positive impact annually to CT's economy. The Community Investment Account (CIA) funds the agricultural viability grant program, the farm transition program, the CT Grown program, the CT Farmlink program, the CT farmland preservation program and has provided the dairy support program.

Respectively submitted David Morse dairy farmer from Woodstock CT

The financial health of Connecticut Dairy farms has been supported by the Community Investment Act. The economic impact of Dairy in our state is now realized and continuing support must be followed through. Our Dairy preserves over 2000 acres of farmland each year providing safe food, locally grown, and many jobs for CT. We are committed to farming in Connecticut because the citizens understand the importance of the food we eat.

Our current financial condition will not allow us to be a sustainable business. The Sunset on the Community Investment Act set to expire in June must be removed. The Community Investment Act must be supported to keep Agriculture alive and feed our people.

James Jacquier

LaurelBrook Farm

390 Norfolk Rd

East Canaan, Ct 06024

(860) 824-1287

laurelbrookfarm@sbcglobal.net

Testimony in Favor of HB #6262 An Act Concerning the Community Investment Act
Chairman Meyers and Chairman Roy:
Members of the Environment Committee:

I am here today representing farmers though out the state, Connecticut Farm Bureau, Very Alive, even farmers who have taken their time to either send testimony or to appear here today. I know if you talk to a dairyman today they are extremely thankful of what has been done. Most feel embarrassed to be back here to testify. Most farmers will complain to each other but neighbor farms are not as close as they once were and that doesn't accomplish anything.

It is extremely important to remove the sunset provision in the Community Investment Act. This is a state safety net for the state's dairy farmers. Until the federal government finds a way that Connecticut's dairy farmers get a fair price for their milk, it's extremely important that the state of Connecticut recognize the value of its farms. What has been done in the legislature in the past few years has made a tremendous difference in keeping farms in Connecticut and keeping farmers from leaving their land and the state. The importance of a local food supply and fresh milk for the citizens of Connecticut should be a priority of the legislature.

This past winter brings the point even closer to Connecticut residents who rush to the store in the advent of each snow storm.

Many of you may be aware of the high oil prices on top of us again. Having a food supply that is close to consumers is even more important as transportation costs increase. Having a volatile market that is threatening the food supply is not good for having all your food shipped in from some far away place.

One thing that is sorely needed in Connecticut is jobs. The dairy farmers of Connecticut provide jobs. Many more jobs than you might realize, not just jobs on each farm but all our dollars are invested right back into our communities, plumbers, electricians, contractors, truckers etc. and the list goes on. This is probably one of the few professions where most of what we do is saving the environment.

We are stewards of the soil, protect open spaces, provide jobs, insure you have a safe food supply and still pay taxes.

Thank you,

Paul J. Miller
Fairvue Farms, LLC
199 Route 171
Woodstock, CT 06281

Dear Committee members,

I am in support of removing the sunset provision that would end support for dairy farmers. As a dairy farmer and chairman of "Very Alive", a group of progressive dairy farmers and related business people, we need this safety net to continue providing dairy products in Connecticut, because progress has not been made in correcting federal milk pricing formulas. We are actively working with our federal officials to work out a pricing solution. It appears at this time, nothing will happen until the 2012 farm bill is passed and that has been delayed a year and even if we get proper federal legislation, it will take almost another year to get it implemented.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and want you to know that because of your leadership in the past, we still have a 1.1 billion dollar industry working tirelessly to provide our citizens with local milk.

HB 6262

Thank you for your time on this matter.
Sincerely,
Bill Peracchio

Co-Chairs Meyer and Davis and Vice-Chairs Maynard and Davis and other distinguished members of the Environment Committee. I am writing to you in support of Bill#6262 concerning the Community Investment Act.

The money received by dairy farmers by this act has been the difference between remaining in business or selling our cows. Dairy farmers control and use more farmland than any other farming activity in the state. This is farmland that most likely would be lost to a state that would have difficulty feeding itself in a crisis let alone the vistas it offers.

Dairy farming contributes 1.1 billion dollars to our state economy and about four thousand jobs. I have a small dairy farm in Preston with three high school kids working part-time and we all know that their pay doesn't last to long in their pockets. In case you didn't know in this economy they would have trouble finding any job and they really appreciate having one and have a lot of friends that do not.

I would also like to thank the committee for raising this bill.

Jerry Grabarek
17 Hewitt Road
Preston, Ct.
06365
860-889-2418



Connecticut
Housing
Coalition

Environment Committee
Public Hearing - March 7, 2011

Testimony of
Betsy Crum, Executive Director
Connecticut Housing Coalition

Support: H.B. 6262 - An Act Concerning the Community Investment Account

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony today. My name is Betsy Crum and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Housing Coalition. The Housing Coalition represents the broad, vibrant network of community-based affordable housing activity across the state. Our more than 250 member organizations include nonprofit developers, human service agencies, resident associations, and diverse other housing practitioners and advocates. Founded in 1981, the Coalition works to expand housing opportunity and to increase the quantity and quality of affordable housing in Connecticut.

The Connecticut Housing Coalition joins with our other statewide coalitions in strongly supporting H.B. 6262, AA Concerning the Community Investment Account. This highly effective financing vehicle, enacted as PA 05-228, directs document recording fees to four important uses: farmland protection, historic preservation, open space and affordable housing. Two years ago, the General Assembly and then-Governor Rell passed legislation to expand the CIA to provide two years of funding for a dairy safety net paid when federal prices fall below the cost of production. Bill 6262 would remove the sunset provision and ensure that this critical assistance to the dairy industry would be continued.

The Community Investment Act supports activities that typically have no other source of funding. Since its inception, the Act has given rise to 562 projects in 145 towns and leveraged twice its investment in local dollars. It is estimated that Community Investment Act projects have created approximately 2,000 jobs since 2006. These projects both support our economy and make our cities and towns more livable, attractive and vibrant.

The Community Investment Act represents ongoing, irreplaceable revenue for important investments across our state. Please support H.B. 6262 and continue to extend this program to the dairy industry. Thank you for your consideration.

To the Environment committee

3/7/11

Submitted by

James Smith

Lebanon

I am writing in support of H.B. No. 6262 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACCOUNT. I am a partner in Cushman farms LP. We own fourteen hundred acres of land, which is the state farmland preservation program. We milk over nine hundred cows and employ 22 people. I have a son who will be attending Cobleskill collage to study dairy management with hopes of coming back to become a partner in the business. I also have two brothers who have kids with similar interest in the business.

This fund from the CIA for the dairy industry is working. Over the last year we have seen an increase in the number of dairy cows in the state. The funds act as an economic stimulus in the local community by paying local venders for fuel, feed, services ect. Our costs for these are greater then farms in the western part of the U.SA.

The CIA fund helps us to compete, allowing us to provide a local source of food for Connecticut

The dairy farms in the state use seventy percent of the open space land. We provide wild life habitat, and a quality of life for the people in the state of Connecticut. The dairy industry needs this funding to help defray the extra cost in of farming here. I ask that you support raised HB 6262 so we can continue to provide the open space, quality of life, jobs and a local supply of food for our state

CONNECTICUT
Land Conservation Council

Testimony in Support of Bill No. 6262 and Bill No. 6263
Presented by Amy Blaymore Paterson, Esq., Executive Director
Environment Committee - March 7, 2011

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and Members of the Environment Committee:

The Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) joins a statewide coalition of organizations in strongly supporting Bill No. 6262, AA Concerning the Community Investment Account (CIA) and Bill No. 6263, AA Concerning the Transition from the Ten Mill Program. CLCC works with land trusts, town conservation and open space commissions, garden clubs and others to help ensure the protection of Connecticut's natural resources. We provide training, technical assistance and funding to ensure the long term strength and viability of the land trust and conservation community across the state. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of our members.

Bill No. 6262: Enacted with tremendous bipartisan support in 2005, the CIA provides increased funding for state programs for open space, farmland, historic properties and affordable housing projects as well as for important municipal capital improvement initiatives. Two years ago, the General Assembly and Governor Rell passed legislation to expand the CIA to provide two years of funding for a dairy safety net paid when federal prices fall below the cost of production. Bill 6262 would remove the sunset provision and ensure that this critical assistance to the dairy industry would be continued.

Funded by a surcharge on recording fees, the impact of the CIA on the economic well-being and overall quality of life in our communities has exceeded all expectations. According to the latest figures compiled by a statewide coalition of open space, farmland, affordable housing and historic preservation groups - the CIA has provided funding for over 562 projects in 145 towns, including at least 26 of the state's 32 Distressed and Targeted Investment municipalities, and has been used to leverage significant match dollars by and for these communities. Overall, 200% in matching funds from private, federal and local sources have been raised to match the state's CIA dollars - funds which have been invested directly back into our communities to support CIA funded projects.

The CIA also funds and creates a need for jobs including at least 14 staff positions at the state agencies that administer these programs. In the private sector, CIA projects have created approximately 2,000 jobs since 2006 in the affordable housing and historic preservation sectors - ranging from construction contractors to jobs in the tourism industry. The \$873 million outdoor recreation industry and the \$3.5 billion dollar agricultural industry, which together generate 28,000 jobs, are strengthened by CIA investments to local farm businesses and land protection.

In short, CIA funded projects not only make our towns more attractive for people to live and for businesses to operate but they contribute significantly to our state's economy. We respectfully request that you support Bill 6262 and the CIA to continue these critical investments into our state's economy.

Bill No. 6263: Landowners in the 10 Mill program made a 100-year commitment to protecting their forest lands - with the original incentive being that their property taxes would be kept at the 10 mill rate. However, on the 50-year anniversary of being in the program these property taxes are likely to increase dramatically if both the standing timber and property are re-assessed and taxed based upon their current "developable" values. Bill 6263 provides a common-sense compromise by: 1) making it easier for landowners to maintain their long-term commitment to forest conservation by capping their property taxes at the P.A. 490 rate upon their 50-year anniversary in the 10 Mill program, and 2) providing 10 Mill landowners who are willing to place a conservation easement on their properties with the flexibility to keep their lands in 10 Mill or transition into P.A. 490 without a financial penalty.



March 7, 2011

Environment Committee
 Senator Edward Meyer, co-chairman
 Representative Richard Roy, co-chairman

RE: HB 6262: *an Act Concerning the Community Investment Account*

Testimony of Helen Higgins, Executive Director, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

My name is Helen Higgins and I am Executive Director of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation. The Trust is Connecticut's non-profit statewide preservation organization, established by Special Act of the Connecticut General Assembly in 1975 (SA 93-75). It is committed to protecting and nourishing the vitality of significant buildings and landscapes through grants, loans, on-site technical preservation assistance, educational programs and publications.

I am testifying in support of HB 6262, **An Act Concerning the Community Investment Account.**

The Community Investment Act provides critical funding for historic preservation grants and projects, as well as for affordable housing, open space protection and farmland preservation. This bill clarifies distribution of CIA funds to the agricultural sector, including the dairy industry.

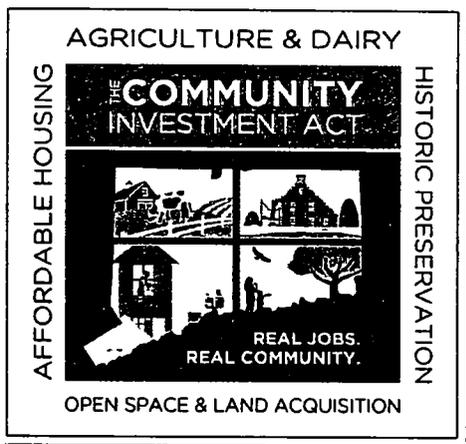
The Connecticut Trust is part of a strong coalition of non-profits that supports the Community Investment Act. We all support redistribution of funds for the agriculture sector.

On behalf of the entire preservation community, I want to thank the Environment Committee for all it has done through the years to support and protect the integrity of the Community Investment Act.

I would like to draw your attention to the attached one-page information sheet on the impact of CIA funds across the state. Of particular note is that projects funded by CIA funds generate real jobs – over 2000 to date in the affordable housing and historic preservation sector alone. Added to that is the fact that this revised bill will support dairy jobs and we see that CIA is a Job Creator!

Thank you again for your support.

Helen Higgins



IT'S A SIMPLE EQUATION...



You know that CIA funds are used for land preservation, historic preservation, and affordable housing...

...but you may NOT know that:

- 2,000 jobs were created in the affordable housing and historic preservation sectors due to CIA projects, including jobs for construction workers, architects, engineers, historic consultants, plumbers, electricians, masons, and jobs in the tourism industry
- The \$873 million outdoor recreation industry and the \$3.5 billion dollar agricultural industry, which together generate 28,000 jobs, is strengthened by CIA investments in local farm businesses and land protection
- 157 dairy farm businesses were saved with CIA support payments

The Community Investment Act has exceeded all expectations by stimulating a distinct economic sector - the Community Investment Sector. **200% In matching funds from private, federal, and local sources have been raised to match the state's CIA dollars.**

A portion of every CIA dollar collected has stayed in the local community for capital investment. The rest has provided critical funding for **CIA projects in nearly every town and city in the state.**

THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACT • PA 05-228 • PA 09-3

AGRICULTURE VIABILITY & DAIRY FARMING • HISTORIC PRESERVATION • OPEN SPACE • AFFORDABLE HOUSING
LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS • TOWN CLERK RECORDS MANAGEMENT

www.communityinvestmentact.org

Environment Committee
Room 3200, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

March 7, 2011

HB 6262: AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

Co-Chairs Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee:

My name is George Hindinger and I am a farmer from Hamden, CT and Chairperson of the Farmland Preservation Advisory Board. I am submitting testimony today in support of HB6262.

HB6262 maintains the dairy support program under the Community Investment Act. This bill would remove the sunset provision and continue the state's policy of funding a dairy farm safety net. Connecticut's dairy industry contributes over \$1.1 billion to the states economy and provides fresh, local milk to its consumers both young and old.

As a farmer I am very proud of being a "steward of the land" but let's not forget that Connecticut's dairy farms control over 70,000 acres of farmland - by far the largest segment of any other commodity in Connecticut. CIA funds also help correct a complicated federal milk pricing system which does not account for the high cost of production in Connecticut.

I thank you for your consideration of this bill and your support for Connecticut agriculture.

Sincerely,
George Hindinger, Chairperson
Farmland Preservation Advisory Board



Conserving Connecticut since 1895

16 Meriden Road
 Rockfall
 Connecticut 06481-2961
 T 860 346-2372
 F 860 347-7463
 email: info@ctwoodlands.org
 web site: www.ctwoodlands.org

Testimony of Eric Hammerling, Executive Director, Connecticut Forest & Park Association

Legislation before the Environment Committee on March 7, 2011	Support/ Oppose
H.B. 6263: AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSITION FROM THE 10 MILL PROGRAM.	Support
H.B. 6262: AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACCOUNT	Support
H.B. 5203: AN ACT AUTHORIZING AN AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON THE LANDS OF THE SOUTHBURY TRAINING SCHOOL	Support

Co-Chairs Meyer, Roy, and Members of the Environment Committee:

My name is Eric Hammerling and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, the first conservation organization established in Connecticut in 1895. As you know, CFPA has offered testimony before the Legislature on issues such as sustainable forestry, state parks and forests, trail recreation, natural resource protection, and land conservation every year since 1897.

As a partner of the *Working Lands Alliance*, we support H.B. 6262 and H.B. 5203, but I will focus my three minutes today in strong support of protecting 14,000 acres of forest that are currently in the 10 Mill program. H.B. 6263: An Act Concerning the Transition from the 10 Mill Program, would ensure that the landowners who made a visionary 100-year commitment to forest conservation receive our appreciation rather than being stuck with a large tax bill.

"10 Mill" is the name of the first forest conservation law enacted in Connecticut (1913). Entering the 10 Mill program provided large forest landowners (over 25 acres) with a low property tax rate of 10 mills based on the original value of the land. Landowners had to be willing to abide by the following conditions: 1) make a 100-year commitment to preserve their land as forest; 2) subject themselves to severe penalties if they changed the use of their properties out of forestry before the conclusion of their 100 years; and 3) they would pay yield taxes to the town if they ever conducted a commercial harvest on the property. It was an amazing program that was many decades ahead of its time.



**Testimony of David Sutherland – Director of Government Relations
Before the Environment Committee – March 7, 2011**

In Support of Bill 6262 – AAC the Community Investment Account

On behalf of The Nature Conservancy, I would like to first of all express our deep appreciation to this committee for the support it has demonstrated for the Community Investment Act (CIA), and secondly urge you to support Bill 6262. The CIA, established by the General Assembly in 2005, uses a surcharge on real estate document recording fees to generate funds that are split between four types of state programs: 1) affordable housing initiatives at the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, 2) the Department of Agriculture's Farmland Preservation programs, 3) historic preservation programs at the Commission on Culture and Tourism, and 4) the DEP's Open Space Matching Grants program.

Two years ago, in a widely praised action, the General Assembly and Governor Rell passed legislation to expand the CIA to provide assistance to dairy farmers for two years. Bill 6262 would ensure that the invaluable assistance that action provided to the dairy industry would be continued.

The programs funded by the CIA create on-the-ground jobs and the type of communities that attract businesses and residents. In the past five years, the CIA has become a critical component of the state's efforts to protect the resources that are essential to the health, vitality, and economic well-being of our communities. It has funded over 626 projects in 148 towns, which have provided matching funds for all of the projects. Our latest figures indicate that communities have provided almost a one to one match on average for all the projects. The CIA also funds at least 14 staff positions at the state agencies to administer these programs.

At least twenty six of our thirty two Distressed and Targeted Investment municipalities have already received grants, many multiple grants, from the CIA.

The CIA is not funded by taxes, but by fees that property owners pay with the understanding that the revenues generated by it go towards protecting those crucial resources that are most often affected by real estate activity.

Connecticut has made progress on open space conservation in the past decade, but we still rank far behind our neighboring states in the amount of state-owned parks and forests we provide for our citizens. We've just started to make progress in slowing the fastest loss of farmland in the nation. The downturn in the real estate market has given our communities important opportunities to protect prime parkland and farmland at favorable prices, but they need help to pursue these projects.



Connecticut Chapter
 645 Farmington Ave.
 Hartford, Connecticut 06105
www.connecticut.sierraclub.org
 Martin Mador, Legislative Chair

Environment Committee
 March 7, 2011

Testimony In Support of
HB 6263 AAC The Transition From The Ten Mill Program
HB 6262 The Community Investment Account
HB 6503 AAC Conservation District Funding
HB 6505 AAC Stream Flow Regulations
 HB 5518 AA Establishing A State-wide Water Use Plan
SB 205 AA Requiring Certain Thermostat Manufacturers To Pay Incentives
 For The Return Of Mercury Thermostats
HB 5387 AA Establishing A Fine For The Subsequent Illegal Dumping Of Litter
SB 1117 AAC Pharmaceutical And Prescription Drug Waste

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the volunteer Legislative Chair for the Sierra Club-Connecticut Chapter. I am also a director of Rivers Alliance and of the Quinnipiac River Watershed Association. I hold a Masters of Environmental Management degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. I studied water and river processes as part of my graduate coursework.

HB 6505

PA 05-142 instructed DEP to promulgate streamflow regulations which would, for the first time, require that all streams in the state receive enough water to keep them minimally alive. DEP engaged in a five year process to produce the regulations. All stakeholders and several state agencies were at the table during this process, which culminated in a hearing and written testimony from four hundred people and organizations.

The Regulations Review Committee last year rejected without prejudice the submitted DEP regulations, in part because of a claim that the regulations covered surface flows and releases as well as groundwater, but that the word "groundwater" did not appear explicitly in the underlying legislation. Environmental advocates claimed that the goal of the bill, "To establish interim and long-term water flow regulations, which regulations will provide for a sufficient flow of water to preserve and protect natural aquatic life", could not possibly be met without consideration of groundwater. The science of river processes informs us that surface flows and groundwater are part of a single hydrologic system, and that groundwater had to be included. Further, the use of terms such as "areas of stratified drift" were clear evidence of groundwater inclusion. In the end, the Committee recommended that additional legislation be submitted to explicitly bring consideration of groundwater into the regulations.

HB 6505 does exactly that. Concerns that this bill would impede, undercut, or take the six year development process back to the beginning, are unfounded. DEP may have removed groundwater from the regulations in later submissions to the Committee, but they are already drafted, and exist in earlier versions of the submitted regulations. Because implementation of the regulations will take many years, even decades, adding groundwater as a second stage in the

adopt the federal guidelines. There are none currently on the agency's webpages. There is a list of 78 items with specific disposal guidelines, including pesticides, gasoline and oil, dead animals, and household hazardous waste, but none for prescription drugs.

I wonder how many people are aware of the federal recommendation:

If a drug take-back or collection program is not available:

- Take your prescription drugs out of their original containers.
- Mix drugs with an undesirable substance, such as cat litter or used coffee grounds.
- Put the mixture into a disposable container with a lid, such as an empty margarine tub, or into a sealable bag.
- Conceal or remove any personal information, including Rx number, on the empty containers by covering it with black permanent marker or duct tape, or by scratching it off.
- Place the sealed container with the mixture, and the empty drug containers, in the trash.

Office of National Drug Control Policy, October 2009

Including this information with each prescription would be sound public policy.

HB 6263

Conversion of the 10mil properties to the 490 program should have happened in the 2010 session. It is good public policy. This bill is recommended.

HB 6262

Payments from the Community Investment Account may cease on July 1 of this year unless 6262 is passed. The program funds valuable programs, and should be allowed to continue disbursement of funds.

HB 6503

The Soil and Water Conservation Districts have provided very useful resources for environmental projects. The Governor's budget contains no funding for them. This bill would fund the districts, as they have been in the past, through fees rather than from the general fund. Sierra recommends passage.

TESTIMONY
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING
March 7, 2011

To Chairmen Ed Meyer, Richard Roy, and Members of the Committee:

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut is the statewide, non-profit coalition of river organizations, individuals, and businesses formed to protect and enhance Connecticut's waters by promoting sound water policies, uniting and strengthening the state's many river groups, and educating the public about the importance of water stewardship. Our 500 members include almost all of the state's river and watershed conservation groups, representing many thousand Connecticut residents.

HB 6263 AAC The Transition from the Ten Mill Program

Rivers Alliance supports this bill and the testimony of Connecticut Forest & Park Association. Forested land is the most important natural purifier of water. The state should encourage its preservation by allowing transfer of tax reductions from the old ten mill program to the current 490 program without penalty.

HB 66503 AAC Conservation District Funding

This bill aims to reinstate dedicated revenue for the Conservation Districts. Rivers Alliance supports ample and stable funding for the districts. Their expert advice to towns provides consistency in stormwater management and wetlands permitting. They potentially could play a key role in regional integration of conservation policies and practices relating to soil and water. Their important contributions are sometimes not understood, and their funding repeatedly has been threatened.

HB6503

SB205

SB227

SB204

HB 6505 AAC Stream Flow Regulations

This bill clarifies that PA 05-142 was intended to provide the state's rivers and streams protection from excessive withdrawals whether by damming, pumping, siphoning, or other means. Rivers Alliance believes this clarification is not legally necessary given the language of the Act. Moreover groundwater regulation has been

included in all drafts of the regulation until December 2010. However, we accept that some legislators may not have realized when they voted in favor of 05-142 (unanimously) that drying up a stream by groundwater pumping would be regulated under the Act.

Across the state, excessive pumping is impairing streams today and shrinking the supply of water for the future. Looking forward, groundwater is the source that will be most intensely developed. It is not usually efficient or economical to create new reservoirs. The most famous pumping incident was the dessication and fish kill in the Fenton River at UConn in 2005. But every year, we have lethal low flows due to pumping, siphoning, etc., in dozens of streams across the state. One of the most publicized groundwater controversies in 2010 was the proposal by United Water to increase pumping from its well fields in Newtown's sole source aquifer in order to send water out of basin to Brookfield. This appeared to be a legal withdrawal, not requiring a permit (according to the DEP), even though the US Geological Study demonstrated that the pumping would decrease flows in the Pootatuck River.

The chairmen of the Regulation Review Committee in 2010 (Sen. Joan Hartley and Rep. T.R. Rowe) told all stakeholders that groundwater should be removed from the streamflow regulation that had been presented to the committee. But they supported it being presented in new legislation. This is that new legislation. It does not change any language relating to process or criteria for writing the flow regulation. It simply says that groundwater is included. At this time, it appears that the state is moving toward passage of the regulation in phases, the first addressing dams on supply reservoirs. We anticipate that groundwater rules will be developed subsequently as the second of the steps required by the Act.

HB 5518 AAC Establishing a Statewide Water Use Plan

This is the Holy Grail of water management policy in Connecticut. The quest has always been abandoned for lack of funding. Instead the state has worked on pieces of such a plan, perhaps most importantly legislation requiring development and filing of water supply plans (under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Health), legislation limiting new diversions (Water Diversion Policy Act, 1982) and legislation protecting streamflows (updated in 20005). Legislative committees, agencies, industry, and environmental nonprofits have produced numerous recommendations on how to move forward with an overarching statewide water management plan. We would be glad to work on this; in fact, we have been doing so for more than ten years, and the streamflow regulation is one result. More rationalization and integration of water management would certainly be helpful.



TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

March 7, 2011

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 90% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony to you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

CCM supports the following bills:

- **Raised House Bill 6503** "*An Act Concerning Conservation District Funding*," which would restore the fee-based funding mechanism for soil and water conservation districts.
- **Raised House Bill 6262** "*An Act Concerning the Community Investment Account*," which would ensure the maintenance of the current distribution of funds to support the intent and purpose of the Community Investment Act.

Both of these bills provide needed funding - *with no impact on the state budget* - to very important programs for preserving, protecting and maintaining the landscape and natural treasures of Connecticut for generations to come.

It is critical that Connecticut continue its commitment to these worthy causes and not usurp their funding.

CCM urges the committee to **support** these bills and **favorably report** them.

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If you have any questions, please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver, Senior Legislative Associate of CCM via email kweaver@ccm-ct.org or via phone (203) 498-3026.

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**CONNECTICUT
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HOUSE**

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DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The motion is to recess subject to the call of the Chair. Is there objection? Is there objection? Chamber is in recess.

(Chamber in recess.)

****start****

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The House of Representatives will reconvene immediately. Members, please report to the chamber. The House will reconvene immediately. Members to the chamber.

The House will come back to order.

Will the clerk please call Calendar Number 235.

THE CLERK:

On page 42, Calendar 235, Substitute for House Bill Number 6262, AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACCOUNT, favorable report by the Committee on Finance.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Hurlburt of the 53rd district, you have the floor, sir.

REP. HURLBURT (53rd):

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Good afternoon.

REP. HURLBURT (53rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The question is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

Will you remark, sir?

REP. HURLBURT (53rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has LCO 8431. I ask that he call it and I be given leave to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 8431, which will be designated House Amendment "A".

THE CLERK:

LCO8 8431, House "A", offered by Representative Bryan Hurlbert.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The Representative seeks leave of the chamber to summarize the amendment.

Is there objection to summarization? Is there

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objection?

Hearing none, Representative Hurlburt, you can summarize the amendment.

REP. HURLBURT (53rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the language that we have before us empowers the Milk Promotion Board. It's -- well, first, it's a strike-all amendment, and what it does is it empowers the Milk Promotion Board to recoup 10 cents of the 15 cents of every hundred weight of Connecticut milk that is produced in the state.

Those 10 cents, which will amount to between 300 and \$350,000, will be used to promote Connecticut milk. As we've seen, happy cows are California cows, whatever that marketing campaign is.

This would allow the Connecticut Milk Promotion Board to create the same sort of advertising for own very own Connecticut milk.

It is not a new fee, but it is passing from funds that are currently going to the New England Milk Board.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The question before the chamber is adoption of

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House Amendment Schedule "A".

Will you remark on the amendment?

Representative Chapin of the 67th.

REP. CHAPIN (67th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, through you, a couple of questions.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. CHAPIN (67th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I believe I heard you say that this isn't a new assessment. Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Hurlburt.

REP. HURLBURT (53rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, that is correct. It's 10 cents of the current 15 cents that is being taken out per hundred weight.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Chapin.

REP. CHAPIN (67th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And again, through you, as I recall a year or two ago, we may have passed

similar legislation.

Is my understanding correct that in doing so, that 10 cents was going to the New England Milk Promotion Board, if that's what it's called, and then sent back to us, so this is a way that it doesn't have to go through that process and it goes directly to the Connecticut Milk Promotion Board?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Hurlburt.

REP. HURLBURT (53rd):

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Chapin.

REP. CHAPIN (67th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the gentleman for his answer.

I would encourage my colleagues to support amendment before us and the bill is amended.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Will you speak further on the amendment? Will you speak further on the amendment before us?

If not, I will try your minds. All those in

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favor, please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Opposed, nay.

The ayes have it, and the amendment is adopted.

Will you remark further on the bill as amended?

Will you remark further on the bill as amended?

If not, will staff and guests please come to the well of the House and will the members please take your seats.

The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call, members to the chamber. The House is voting by roll call. Members to the chamber, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted?
Will the members please check the board to determine if your vote is properly cast?

Will the members -- if all members have voted, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk will take a tally.

The Clerk will please announce the tally.

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THE CLERK:

House Bill 6262 as amended by House "A"

Total Number Voting 145

Necessary for Passage 73

Those Voting Yea 145

Those Voting Nay 0

Absent not Voting 6

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The bill as amended is passed.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 156.

THE CLERK:

On page 5, Calendar 156, House Bill Number 6364,

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SUNSET DATE FOR PERSONAL

INSURANCE RISK RATE FILING AND LIMITING RATE

INCREASES IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, favorable report

of the Committee on Public Safety.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The Esteemed Chair of the Insurance and Real
Estate Committee, Representative Megna; of the 97th.

REP. MEGNA (97th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move the Joint Committee's
favorable report, passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

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THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Calendar page 22, Calendar 651, House Bill 6540;
Madam President, move to place the item on the Consent
Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Calendar page 23, Calendar 657, House Bill 6262;
Madam President, move to place the item on the Consent
Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, Calendar page 23, Calendar 658,
House Bill 6364; move to place this item on the
Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

Madam President, the items placed on the first Consent Calendar begin on Calendar page 10, Calendar Number 478, House Bill 6488; Calendar 480, House Bill 5256.

Calendar page 11, Calendar 513, substitute for House Bill 6557.

Calendar page 12, Calendar Number 535, substitute for House Bill 6226; Calendar 555, House Bill 6259.

Calendar page 13, Calendar 560, substitute for House Bill 5368; Calendar 567, substitute for House Bill 6157.

Calendar page 14, Calendar 574, substitute for House Bill 6410; Calendar 578, House Bill 6156.

Calendar page 15, Calendar 591, House Bill 6263; Calendar 594, substitute for House Bill 5508; Calendar 595, substitute for House Bill 62 -- 5263.

Calendar page 16, Calendar Number 606, substitute for House Bill 6581; Calendar 609, substitute for House Bill 6501.

Calendar page 17, Calendar 610, substitute for House Bill 6224; Calendar 613, substitute for House Bill 6453.

Calendar page 18, Calendar 614, substitute for House Bill 5068; Calendar 628, substitute for House Bill 5008; Calendars 633, House Bill 6489.

Calendar page 19, Calendar 635, substitute for House Bill 6351; Calendar 640, House Bills, 6559.

Calendar page 20, Calendar 642; House Bill 6595.

Calendar page 21, Calendar 645, substitute for House Bill 6267; Calendar 648, substitute for House Bill 5326; Calendar 650, substitute for House Bill 6344.

Calendar page 22, Calendar 651, substitute for House Bill 6540.

Calendar page 23, Calendar Number 655, substitute for House Bill 6497; Calendar 657, substitute for House Bill 6262; Calendar 658, House Bill 6364; Calendar 659, House Bill 5489.

Calendar page 24, Calendar 660, substitute for House Bill 6449.

Calendar page 36 -- correction -- Calendar page 33, Calendar Number 390, substitute for Senate Bill 1181.

Calendar page 36, Calendar Number 481, House Bill 5472.

Calendar page 37, Calendar Number 584, substitute for House Joint Resolution Number 34; Calendar 585, substitute for House Joint Resolution Number 54; Calendar 586, House Joint Resolution Number 65, Calendar 587, House Joint Resolution Number 66.

Calendar page 38, Calendar 588, House Joint Resolution Number 80; Calendar 589, House Joint Resolution Number 63; Calendar 590, House Joint Resolution Number 35; Calendar 620, substitute for House Joint Resolution Number 45.

Calendar page 39, Calendar Number 621, substitute for House Joint Resolution Number 47; Calendar 622, House Joint Resolution Number 68; Calendar 623, substitute for House Joint Resolution Number 69; Calendar 624, substitute for House Joint Resolution Number 73.

Calendar page 40, Calendar 625, substitute for House Joint Resolution Number 81; Calendar 626, House Joint Resolution Number 84.

Madam President, I believe that completes the items placed on Consent Calendar Number 1.

THE CHAIR:

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Thank you.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, please call for a roll call vote, and the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is now voting by roll call on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber. The Senate is now voting by roll call on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gomes?

If all members have voted; all members have voted? The machine shall be locked.

And, Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on adoption of Consent Calendar
Number 1.

Total number voting	36
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0

Those absent and not voting 0

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar passes.

The Senate will stand at ease for a moment.

(Chamber at ease.)

SENATOR LOONEY:

Madam President?

THE CHAIR:

Yes, Senator.

The Senate will come to order.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes. Madam President, the Clerk is in possession of Senate Agenda Number 5 for today's session.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Madam President, the Clerk is in possession of Senate Agenda Number 5, dated Wednesday, June 8, 2011.

Copies have been made available.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.