



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Peter Hearn
Executive Director

March 7, 2022

Re: House Bill 243 - An Act Concerning Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices.

Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Cohen and Rep. Gresko, Vice Chairs Sen. Slap and Rep. Palm, Ranking Members Sen. Miner and Rep. Harding, and distinguished members of the Environment Committee,

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) is a nine-member board that works independently of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to assess the condition of Connecticut's environment and report its findings annually to the Governor, recommend actions to improve state environmental programs, advise other state agencies on the environmental impacts of proposed projects, and investigate citizens' complaints and allegations of violations of environmental laws.

The Council supports provisions of SB 243 that would facilitate the development of farmland restoration and climate resiliency plans that would restore farmland and increase the number of farmers who are implementing climate-smart agriculture and forestry practices. Such practices include, but are not limited to, replanting of vegetation on erosion prone land or along streams, improvement of water sources and irrigation efficiency, restoration and improvement of water runoff patterns, management of livestock to improve riparian areas, and woodlot management with provisions for the removal of invasive plants.

Thank you for consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Peter Hearn,
Executive Director