

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5570 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING A TAX CREDIT FOR MILK PRODUCERS.

Vote Date: 3/30/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/27/2026

File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Finance, Revenue, & Bonding Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

With the implementation of this refundable tax credit, it can provide financial support for milk producers within the state when the price of milk cannot cover the cost of producing it. With a tax credit for milk production, it could provide financial relief for many in this industry.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE (IF APPLICABLE):

Makes additions to the bill that detail the statute of what milk producers can apply for this tax credit and the process of receiving it.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

The Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equality & Opportunity, (CWCSEO),

The Commission shared their support of the bill, as it would try to ensure that Connecticut does not lose access to local dairy products. They share that currently Connecticut is losing farmland, creating instability in the agriculture of the state. They say that supporting dairy production doesn't just benefit the state economically, but also creates food access and affordability for consumers.

Seth & Sharon Aborn, Owner, Roaring Brook Farm:

Seth and Sharon Aborn own a dairy farm. They bring attention to the fact that they considered leaving the state, but the assistance of government agencies has allowed them to build a brand-new facility that accommodated their needs. Despite these improvements, this new facility led to rising operating expenses and they need economic relief, fearing being forced to leave the dairy business. They continue discussing how the tax credit model presented in this bill is modeled off Massachusetts's Dairy Tax Credit, citing their success as justification for this legislation.

Michael Andrews, Owner, Cook Hill Farm:

Michael Andrews cites his personal account of the dairy industry's decline and the economic struggles that it's currently facing. He emphasizes the importance of farmers supporting one another, stating that one farmer suffering will lead to all farmers suffering.

Kaitlin Argentina:

Kaitlin Argentina supports this bill and discusses how beneficial it would be to most farmers, potentially saving farmers from permanently going out of business. She states that it would improve the state's economy, environment, and future food security.

Ethan Arsenault, Owner, Canaan View Dairy LLC:

Ethan Arsenault is a first-generation farmer that came to be from working with a dairy family that exited the industry. He discusses the economic struggles of the dairy industry and discusses how the tax credit model presented in this bill is modeled off Massachusetts's Dairy Tax Credit, citing their success as justification for this legislation.

Edward Belden, Carolina Eastern Vail Inc.:

Edward Belden is a manager for a fertilizer company and has seen personally how dairy farms have been diminishing throughout the state over the decades. He discusses the economic struggles of the dairy industry and discusses how the tax credit model presented in this bill is modeled off Massachusetts's Dairy Tax Credit, citing their success as justification for this legislation.

Shelby Bellows, Dairy Herdsman, Valleyside Farm:

Shelby Bellows states that without government intervention, the farm they work on would struggle. They discuss the economic struggles of the dairy industry and discuss how the tax credit model presented in this bill is modeled off Massachusetts's Dairy Tax Credit, citing their success as justification for this legislation.

Peter Bennett, Feed Manager, Fairholm Farm:

Peter Bennet stresses the importance of the dairy industry and the skill involved in such work. He also states that it strengthens our state's local food system and rural communities. He discusses the economic struggles of the dairy industry and discusses how the tax credit model presented in this bill is modeled off Massachusetts's Dairy Tax Credit, citing their success as justification for this legislation.

Lee Ann Berry:

Lee Ann Berry supports this bill, believing it would preserve open space, support local businesses, and maintain the state's food supply and prevent the loss of farms.

James Booth, Owner, Hometown Heating:

James Booth wishes to support other small enterprises as much as possible. They reference the reduction in active dairy farms across the state and wish to prevent further decline. They believe this bill will counteract the rising costs associated with farms.

Bonnie Burr, Assistant Director and Department Head, University of Connecticut

Extension:

Bonnie Burr emphasizes that a consistent and sustainable plan is needed in the dairy industry for the financial struggles of dairy farmers to be properly addressed. They also highlight the economic importance that the industry plays in the state, stating that if the industry struggles, it will cause a large portion of the rural economy to suffer. She cites the success of Massachusetts' Dairy Tax Credit, which is what this bill is modeled after.

Kevin Burnham Co-Owner, Woodhill Farm:

Kevin Burnham brings attention to how the dropping prices of milk has negatively affected their farm. He discusses how their profits do not cover the costs of production, forcing them to make difficult financial decisions. They express concern for their employees, stating that this bill is desperately needed. He discusses the economic struggles of the dairy industry and discusses how the tax credit model presented in this bill is modeled off Massachusetts's Dairy Tax Credit, citing their success as justification for this legislation.

Charles Carroll Jr., Owner, ACDC Industrial Electric:

Charles Carroll states that farms make up a decent amount of their business, therefore losing farmers would have a profound negative impact on it. He discusses the economic struggles of the dairy industry and discusses how the tax credit model presented in this bill is modeled off Massachusetts's Dairy Tax Credit, citing their success as justification for this legislation.

Karen Cartier, Chief Operating Officer, Dairy Farmers of America (DFA):

The DFA highlights the declining state of the dairy industry in the state, believing this decline will continue without meaningful state action. They discuss the success of Massachusetts' Dairy Tax Credit, which is what this legislation is modeled after. They emphasize the importance of dairy farms, reinforcing the state's economy, food supply, and agriculture. They believe this bill will provide meaningful solutions to the industry's struggles.

Andrew and Melanie Caruso, Owners, AD Caruso Ag Repair Services:

Andrew and Melanie Caruso discuss how they've seen dairy farmers struggle first-hand with increasing production costs, advocating for legislation that provides them with financial relief. They discuss the economic struggles of the dairy industry and discuss how the tax credit model presented in this bill is modeled off Massachusetts's Dairy Tax Credit, citing their success as justification for this legislation.

Jeff Gordon, Senate Senator, Connecticut General Assembly:

Senator Gordon is in support of this bill. He highlights the importance of dairy farmers and the affordability crisis they are currently facing. He describes how the bill would provide a tax credit to milk producers when the federal pay price falls below the cost of production and make these credits widely accessible to various dairy operations across the state. He continues that he is supportive of legislation like his proposed bill, SB 98. They cite the success that other states have found with similar programs and believe that it will protect the state's dairy farmers and continue access to local, fresh milk.

Richard Handfield, Owner, Handfield Dairy Equipment, thanks the committee for raising this bill to establish a framework to support Connecticut dairy farms, by helping to create revenue stability. He shares reasons why people are not continuing to do business in Connecticut, one being that it is a very expensive state to do business in. He shares fears that if action is not taken, it could lead to the end of dairy farming in CT, having a huge impact on farmers and consumers. It is projected that Connecticut farmers are expected to lose millions in 2026, possibly leading to the loss of nearly half of Connecticut dairy farms in the next few years. He shares that the proposed legislation is based on the Massachusetts Dairy Tax Credit and has been successful in saving the dairy industry in other states.

Stephen Harding, Senate Minority Leader, Connecticut General Assemble, supports the bill as it allows for milk producers to claim credit against personal income tax or corporation business tax. He highlights that Connecticut farmers are facing high production costs and low milk prices. He says the proposal aims to not just help farmers with major tax increases but also help follow changes to how state farmland is assessed.

Susan & Lawrence Hastings, Owners, Hasting Farm LLC, shares that the CT Dairy Sustainability Grant has helped fill gaps during low milk prices and allowed for them to get ahead when prices are higher. They highlight that the Connecticut dairy industry is a high economic driver in the state and share the work they have done to preserve this industry. They suggest following the proposed plan of refundable tax credit to model it off the Massachusetts Dairy Tax.

Summer-Rae Henderson, Owner, Dept Pump, owns a small business that supports agriculture in Connecticut by sourcing products for dairy farms. She highlights the important role that dairy farms play: in the preservation of farmland, how they support the economy and provide milk and dairy products throughout the state. She cites the success of the Massachusetts Dairy Tax Credit and suggests that this legislation be passed.

Erica Hermonot, Fairholm Farm, thanks the committee for raising the bill that establishes a structure to support Connecticut dairy farms by providing revenue stability when federally set milk prices are unsustainably low. She shares how the dairy industry is a major economic driver in Connecticut, and it needs to be protected. She urges the committee to protect the farms of Connecticut and pass this bill.

Jon Hermonot, Managing Partner, Fairholm, highlights the jobs and economic impact that dairy farming provides for Connecticut. He highlights the struggles faced when milk prices are low and how this impacts the farmers. He urges the committee to pass this legislation to support dairy farmers in Connecticut.

David Hernke, DVM, talks about the work he does with dairy farmers throughout Connecticut, he says that he has seen firsthand the impact of the work done. He highlights the importance of this profession as they are teaching the next generation of scientists, livestock veterinarians and caretakers. He shares how the global market has dropped and due to the low levels in Connecticut many dairy farmers are feeling the repercussions. He urges the committee to help dairy farmers.

Jake Herrin, ASM Premier Select Sires, says the Tax Credit can help to stop farms from having to shut down. He shares his experience working in Connecticut and seeing farms be

shut down, he noted that in Maine there is currently a similar program that has been successful.

Heidi Hertz, shares the importance of supporting small dairy farms and that the small businesses have on the economy, agriculture and quality products of Connecticut. She suggests following the Massachusetts dairy Tax Credit model and applying it to Connecticut.

John Hoffman, Hockanum Valley Farm, grows crops for dairy farmers, he shares the importance of having neighboring dairy farms, so they are importing locally and not from other states. He shares that the global market drops so low it puts many dairy farms at risk, and that it is anticipated that dairy farmers will lose millions this year. He urges for the adoption of the Massachusetts Dairy Tax Credit.

The following are workers or people that have worked closely with dairy farms and see the impact firsthand of the low milk prices. They urge the committee to adopt the Massachusetts Dairy Tax Credit. They warn of the possibility of dairy farmers seeing a major decrease if there is no action taken. They currently say that it estimates that in 2026 Connecticut dairy farmers will lose millions, if action is not taken.

John Hoffman, Johnny's Ag Services LLC, requests the adoption of Massachusetts Dairy Tax Credit. He says his business depends on dairy farmers and he has seen firsthand effects of having low milk prices on farmers and their companies. He also shares how the dairy farmers are the backbone of Connecticut and help contribute to not only the economy but the landscapes and preservation of land.

Martin Hoffman, Partner, Soapstone Valley Equipment Inc., talks about upholding open land and tradition with dairy farms in Connecticut. He urges for the adoption of the Massachusetts Dairy Tax Credit. He warns about the possible financial loss this year alone, if action is not taken.

Min Huang, Certified Wildlife Biologist, shares that Connecticut dairy industry is one of the major economic drivers in the state. They preserve farmland and wildlife habitats, support jobs and generate billions of dollars in economic impact. He points to the success of the Massachusetts Dairy Tax Credit and suggests that Connecticut adopt a similar program.

Joshua Poulin, President, Poulin Grain, shares additional costs that Connecticut farms face, which make it harder for them when there are low milk prices. He says this program is helpful in helping to stabilize and preserve farms and the economy, but not a long-term solution to many of the challenges faced by Connecticut dairy farmers. He urges the committee to help Connecticut's economy by supporting these dairy farmers.

Frederick Plumb, Meadow Ridge Farm LLC, shares his experience as a fourth-generation farmer in the state. He says that he has seen the decrease in dairy farmers over the years and shares the importance of having these farmers. He says that without this legislation dairy farmers will be unable to survive the economic situations, as they are projected to lose \$20 million this year alone.

Carolyn Huff, Big Boy's Toys, LLC supports the refundable tax credit model proposed, and shares success after legislation it is modeled after. They discuss the importance of dairy

farms as it helps to maintain a healthy agriculture industry throughout the state and is a very valuable resource.

The following are members of the Very Alive, Connecticut's Dairy Coalition. They express concerns that if action is not taken the Connecticut dairy farms will lose millions of dollars this year alone, and within the next few years the state will lose upwards of half of dairy farms. They urge the committee to adapt the legislation based on the Massachusetts Dairy Tax Credit and hope it will have the same success in Connecticut.

Shelby Jacquier, Laurelbrook Farm, shares her work on farms as a 4th generation farmer. She highlights the estimated high loss in money due to low milk cost this year. She describes the importance of farming not only for consumers, but also for landscape protection and economic benefit for the state. She asks for action to be taken to protect farms like hers for the next generation.

Kevin Kouri, Director of Business Development, Phoenix Feed & Nutrition, shares how similar models have been successful in states like Maine and Massachusetts. He calls for the stabilization of pricing and ability to reinvest and allow for Connecticut to compete with other dairy producing neighbors. He says the open farmland allows for many beneficial environmental impacts and keeps spaces vibrant and attractive for tourism.

Paul Larson, President, Connecticut Farm Bureau, discusses the challenges that many dairy farmers are facing such as higher input cost for fuel, feed, etc. Connecticut also has some of the highest labor taxes, some of the highest energy costs, and high land values. This initiative helps to ensure that farms don't go away and become residential or commercial developments. He says that the productive farmland is vital to the ecological health of the community.

Tracey McDougall, Executive Director, Connecticut Farm Bureau, discusses the importance of this bill as dairy farms are the economic backbone of Connecticut, working the farmland allows for preservation of many acres of land, it also creates Connecticut's rural landscape. She discussed the federal mandated milk prices and how it has been regulated since the 1930s and says now it is a lot higher to produce milk in Connecticut and farmers need help adapting to these prices.

Kevin McGillicuddy, Crop Manager, Square A Farm, highlights the uncertainty he and many other farmers face, as the milk prices are set at a federal level and influenced by the global market. He says these numbers have dropped and created many challenges for the next generation of farmers, across Connecticut making many dairy farms at risk. He says the proposed refundable dairy tax credit program, modeled after the program in Massachusetts, would offer a solution for dairy farmers and help to protect the dairy farms of Connecticut. He says this will grant immediate relief and long-term solutions to remain an option for dairy farmers across the state.

Simon Mellin, Founder, Modern Milkman, discusses that when milk prices drop, their farms struggle. They say the reason for Modern Milkman is because consumers want to support local farms and farmers need a better market. They highlight that supporting dairy farms protects food security, open farmland, jobs, and communities. They urge for the passing of this legislation.

Chandler Paquette, First Selectman, Woodstock, expresses strong support of the bill, as it is important to the dairy farms in his town. He shares the struggles that he sees his dairy farms in his town currently facing. He says without help from the state these farms will steadily decline, and we will see an up-scale in housing developments and solar fields. He asks that the legislation be passed and based on the Massachusetts model.

Robin Chesmer, Operator, Graywall Farm:

Robin Chesmer references the decrease in the price of milk and how it negatively impacts dairy farmers in the state, causing many dairy farms to close over the decades. They emphasize the importance of the role dairy farms play in the state, stating it increases the quality of life of all Connecticut residents. They express support of the bill to protect dairy farmers and benefits generated by them.

Willow Chesmer, Cheesemaker, Graywall Farms:

Willow Chesmer recounts the positive significance that Graywall Farms has had on their family's lives. They state that dairy farmers want to provide for their community's food supply and environmental beauty. They discuss the economic struggles of the dairy industry and discuss how the tax credit model presented in this bill is modeled off Massachusetts's Dairy Tax Credit, citing their success as justification for this legislation.

Diane Christadore, Secretary, Lone Elm Farm:

Diane Christadore talks about the emotional significance farming has had on her family and expresses a desire to preserve this for future generations as well. She states that if the industry were to fold, her family would need to leave the industry and find a new way to make a living. She discusses the economic struggles of the dairy industry and discusses how the tax credit model presented in this bill is modeled off Massachusetts's Dairy Tax Credit, citing their success as justification for this legislation.

Lisa Clark, Officer Manager, Square A Farm:

Lisa Clark recounts her personal lifelong experience on her family's farm and its deep emotional impact on her life. She discusses how much farms mean to everyone who has personal ties to them. She brings up the success of Massachusetts' refundable dairy tax credit program, which is what this legislation is modeled after. She emphasizes the importance of assisting dairy farms in the state, maintaining its economic, environmental, and emotional significance.

Jeffrey Cone, Owner, River Plain Dairy:

Jeffrey Cone states that due to the tight profit margins he experiences, the possibility of passing his dairy farm to his children is nearly impossible. He wants to preserve this life for his family, believing their current way of life is very beneficial. He continues that he needs support from the state to continue his dairy farm. He discusses the economic struggles of the dairy industry and discusses how the tax credit model presented in this bill is modeled off of Massachusetts's Dairy Tax Credit, citing their success as justification for this legislation.

Dr. Trevor Copes, Herd Veterinarian, Hytone Dairy:

Dr. Trevor Copes is a herd veterinarian deeply invested in the wellbeing of dairy cattle and those that care for them. They state that the dairy industry allows them to pursue their passion and is only possible with the work and care of dairy farmers. They discuss the

economic struggles of the dairy industry and discuss how the tax credit model presented in this bill is modeled off Massachusetts's Dairy Tax Credit, citing their success as justification for this legislation.

Sherry Cotton, Director of Food Waste Strategy, Ag-Grid Energy LLC:

Sherry Cotton highlights the economic struggle that dairy farms are currently undergoing. They hope that the committee works to counteract these struggles with the refundable tax credit, stating it will improve the state's economy and keep farmland in production.

Ryan Cournyer, Owner, Karine's Farm:

Ryan Cournyer states that although they are not a dairy farm, they advocate for the health of dairy farms. They discuss the economic struggles of the dairy industry and discuss how the tax credit model presented in this bill is modeled off Massachusetts's Dairy Tax Credit, citing their success as justification for this legislation.

Tim Davis Jr., Owner, Murdock Farm:

Tim Davis states that the rise in the cost of production has made it difficult to continue farming and would love to upgrade their facilities but is unable to due to his family's financial situation. He expresses strong support for this bill. He discusses the economic struggles of the dairy industry and discusses how the tax credit model presented in this bill is modeled off Massachusetts's Dairy Tax Credit, citing their success as justification for this legislation.

Brad Davis Dr., Owner, Davis Dairy Farm:

Brad Davis is the owner and operator of the last remaining dairy farm in Sterling, CT. He requests for both immediate and long-term relief for the dairy industry. He discusses the economic struggles of the dairy industry and discusses how the tax credit model presented in this bill is modeled off Massachusetts's Dairy Tax Credit, citing their success as justification for this legislation.

Chris and Tammy Deojay, Owners, Deojay LLC:

Chris and Tammy Deojay advocate for the dairy industry. Their company supports the agricultural industry, stating that the industry's success is deeply intertwined with their own. They discuss the economic struggles of the dairy industry and discuss how the tax credit model presented in this bill is modeled off of Massachusetts's Dairy Tax Credit, citing their success as justification for this legislation.

Ned Ellis, Maple leaf Farm:

Ned Ellis discusses how this bill would personally benefit their farm and would like to see this bill passed.

Alice V. Ennis D.V.M., Owner, B C Large Animal Clinic:

Alice V. Ennis states that she has seen the decline of the dairy industry personally and brings attention to the wide scale impact these changes have. She continues that the depletion of the industry will also lead to the decrease in large animal veterinarians in the state as well. She discusses the economic struggles of the dairy industry and discusses how the tax credit model presented in this bill is modeled off Massachusetts's Dairy Tax Credit, citing their success as justification for this legislation.

The White Family, Ownders, Selbourt Valley Farm:

The White Family recounts how their farm has allowed them to live an emotionally rich life and how passionate they are about maintaining their lifestyle. They bring up the success of Massachusetts' refundable dairy tax credit program, which is what this legislation is modeled after. They emphasize the importance of assisting dairy farms in the state, maintaining its economic, environmental, and emotional significance.

Daniel Fields, Co-Owner, Mapleleaf Farm Enterprises LLC:

Daniel Fields expresses concern for being priced out of the state due to the rising production costs. He emphasizes the importance of the dairy industry in the state. He wants to preserve his way of life for his children, but states that this is very difficult to do. He discusses the economic struggles of the dairy industry and discusses how the tax credit model presented in this bill is modeled off Massachusetts's Dairy Tax Credit, citing their success as justification for this legislation.

Benjamin Freund:

Benjamin Freund states that their livelihood is dependent on the dairy industry. They continue that dairy farms are an essential part of the state's agriculture. They express concern for the loss of working land and the lack of control dairy farmers have over prices despite rising costs. They support this bill, believing it will protect our working lands and agricultural infrastructure.

Betsy Gara, Executive Director, COST:

COST supports this bill, believing it will stabilize farm income and ensure the maintenance of dairy farms. They emphasize the importance of maintaining the environment as well.

Christopher Gentile, President, North Main Cattle Co.:

Christopher Gentile stresses the importance of securing the future of every farm in the state. He talks about how he's seen dairy farms close personally and deeply supports this bill. He discusses the economic struggles of the dairy industry and discusses how the tax credit model presented in this bill is modeled off Massachusetts's Dairy Tax Credit, citing their success as justification for this legislation.

John Shipton, Office Manager, Benders Oil Service: Submitted testimony in support stating the dairy farms need support. They have been providing diesel and gas for farm equipment for over 50 years and work together to keep local family operated farms going. The dairy farmers need support when prices go up and support their company. They stand together and state the dairy and farming industry have been the backbone for many generations.

Don Smith, Cushman Farms: Submitted testimony in support of the refunding tax credit bill. They state they grew up on a dairy farm and want to keep dairies as an open space available to people and nature. When the bottom line gets tight, they could use help and explain dairies are an asset to CT.

Clint Thorn, Owner, Thorncrest Farm: Submitted testimony in support stating that it would have a very positive impact on the remaining dairy farms. Thorn states they are often asked if there will be a point when no dairy farms are left. To this they explain that in 1968 Goshen had 23 dairy farms now they are the last one left in Goshen.

Susan Vaill, VZ Farm: Submitted testimony in support stating they grew up a third-generation dairy farmer, but their family was forced to go out of business due to increased costs while the income of selling milk went down. They explain that the dairy farm's economy supports veterinarians, equipment dealers, feed suppliers and many other industries. Vaill expresses a concern with the loss of farmland in the state and hopes HB 5570 will help protect farmland while keeping agriculture alive In CT.

Adam Ward, DVM, Tufts University: Submitted testimony in support stating they grew up on a traditional dairy farm and that upbringing inspired them to study dairy science. They explain that since they became an Assistant Clinical Professor at Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, they noticed it is much more difficult to farm in New England when compared to other states. Dairy farming in New England faces challenges as they are being squeezed by high taxes, input costs and a lack of robust dairy infrastructure. Those farmers contribute significantly to the local communities and are vital to preserving farmland.

37 People: Submitted similar testimony in support stating dairy farms need to be protected to ensure CT's food security. They explain that the bill would set a framework for revenue stability when federally set mild prices are unsustainably low. Aiding farmers is necessary for the nation's food supply. Milk's pricing dropped by 25% this year which is an anticipated loss of 20 million in 2026. The dairy industry in CT generates \$2.2 billion in economic impact and \$69 million in taxes. The bill's tax credit is like the Massachusetts Dairy Tax credit that has been implemented since 2008. Massachusetts produced 175M cwt of milk that yielded a \$4.56 per cwt out of a fund of \$8M. CT produces 424M cwt of milk which would demand a total of \$20M to match the Massachusetts model. During that time 97% of participating dairy farms reported that that tax credit was crucial for their economic viability. Many explanations on how the bill would affect their local area were given as well as statements on their experiences growing up or working as dairy farmers. They explain this bill would go a long way to alleviating some of those struggles and to stabilizing the dairy farming industry much as it has for Massachusetts.

- Ashley Rebello, Fairholm Farm
- Holley Ralston, Dairy Nutrition Consultant
- Scott Reynolds, Owner, K-S Harvesting
- Eric Safin, Owner, Echo Valley Farm
- Mart Simonds, Kristina, Owners, Dave-s Tire - Auto Repair
- Brandon Smith, Owner, Operator, Cushman Farms
- James Smith, Cushman Farms

- Kathleen Smith, First Selectman, Town of Lebanon
- Mary Margaret Smith, Executive Program Director, Kellogg Dairy Center UConn
- Wesley Smith, Dairy Manager, Fairvue Farms
- Tony Snurkowski, By Products, Production Manager, Hillandale Farms
- Arthur Spielman IV, Owner, Spielman Farms • Justine Spielman, Spielman Farms

- Lindsay Spielman, Secretary, Spielman Farms
- Michael St Germain, President, Yantic River Auto Supply
- Glen Staebner, President, Blue Slope Sawdust Co
- Tyler Stevenson, Field Agronomist, Pioneer HiBred International
- Nickolas Surette, Farm Worker, Fairholm Farm • Donald Tarryk, Service Manager, Handfield Dairy Equipment

- Emile Lepage Terri
Courville, Owners,
Courvilles Garage Inc
- Lisa Thomas,
Chairwoman, Coventry
Town Council
- Todd Ward PAS, Dairy Nutritionist,
FairHolm Farm, CanaanView Farm
- Eric Whittaker, Territory Sales Manager,
Genex Cooperative
- Carl Ward, Farm Employee, Valleyside
Farm LLC
- Clark Woodmansee III, Owner,
Woodmansee Farms
- Richard Weingart, Hooftrimmer
- Angela Young, Creamery Manager,
Owner, Woodstock Creamery
- Alex Wesolowski, Business Owner,
Wesolowski Hoof Trimming LLC
- Chase Young, Feed Manager, Valleyside
Farm LLC
- Francis Whelan III, Co-Owner, Hayes
Farm
- Lucas Young, Farm Manager, Valleyside
Farm
- Aaron White, Co-Owner, Selbourn Valley
Farm
- Lucas Young, Owner, Valleyside Farm
- Dan White, CoOwner, Selbourn Valley
Farm
- Timothy Young, Managing Member,
Valleyside Farm
- Eugene White, Professor, Cummins
School of Vet Med Tufts

The following are owners of farms, some from multigenerational families or work closely in farm settings. They all express support for the bill as they feel the financial burdens of low milk cost. They all share that currently it is projected that Connecticut dairy farmers are anticipated to lose close to \$20 million in 2026. If there are no measures taken, they predict losing half of the dairy farms in Connecticut in the next few years. They all request that the refundable tax credit model proposed in the legislation be modeled off the Massachusetts Dairy Tax Credit, a successful program.

- Adam Jackson, Fairvue Farms
- James Jacquier, Owner, Laurelbrook Farm
- Thomas Johnson, Herd Manager,
Spielman Farm
- Barbara Jones, Fairview Farms
- Tim & Katie Kinsella, Owners, Birch Mill
Farm Partnership
- Harry Klug, Owner, Klug Farm
- Benjamin Learned, Farm Manager, Valley
View Dairy
- Timothy Learned, Valley View Dairy
- George Lewis, President, Ventura Grain
Company
- Leyard Lewis, Co Owner, Beriah Lewis
Farm
- Louis Lipton, Owner/Operator, Pleasant
View Farms Inc
- James Logue, Co-Owner, Logue Farms Inc
- Kevin Lombardi
- Edward Mattern, Owner, Sweet Green
Creamery LLC
- Phil D Maxwell, Professor Forensic
Science Department
- Shawn McGillicuddy, Owner, Square A
Farm
- Linda Miner, Owner, Cool Breeze Farm
- Amy Monahan, President, Senexet Grange
#40
- Megan Mordasky, Owner, Westview Farm
- Daine & Todd Morin, Fairholm Farm
- Kristin Orr, For Hill Farms
- Matthew Peckham, Owner, Operator, Elm
Farm
- Gregory Peracchio, Owner, Hytone Farm

The following individuals discuss the economic struggles of the dairy industry and the potential losses it can experience in the future without government intervention. They

go on to emphasize the importance of the industry in the state. They continue discussing how the tax credit model presented in this bill is modeled off of Massachusetts's Dairy Tax Credit, citing their success as justification for this legislation.

Lincoln Chesmer, Co-Owner, Graywall Farms LLC,
Steve Coit, Owner, Coit Excavating Inc.,
Catherine de Ronde, VP Economics Legislative Affairs,

AgriMark Inc., Melissa Dziurgot,
Herd Owner and Manager,
Greenbacker Brokerfield Farm,
Mike Gilman, Owner, Cato Corner Farm,

Hanna Godin, Lely Center New England,
Sheila Andrew PhD, State Dairy Extension Specialist,
University of Connecticut,
Seth Bahler, CEO, Oakridge Dairy LLC:

The following are workers or people that have worked closely with dairy farms and see the impact firsthand of the low milk prices. They urge the committee to adopt the Massachusetts Dairy Tax Credit. They warn of the possibility of dairy farmers seeing a major decrease if there is no action taken. They currently say that it estimates that in 2026 Connecticut dairy farmers will lose millions, if action is not taken.

David Kosztyo, District Leader, Pioneer Seeds
Mia Kozey, Fairvue Farms
Robert Levy, District Sales Manager, Kimball Midwest

Andrew Johnson
Jacob Lipton, Operator, Pleasant View Farms
Zach Olson, Operations Manager, Hytone Farm LLC

The following are members of the Very Alive, Connecticut's Dairy Coalition. They express concerns that if action is not taken the Connecticut dairy farms will lose millions of dollars this year alone, and within the next few years the state will lose upwards of half of dairy arms. They urge the committee to adapt the legislation based on the Massachusetts Dairy Tax Credit and hope it will have the same success in Connecticut.

Kies LaVack, Fort Hill Farms
David Miller, Fairvue Farms
Paul & Diane Miller, Fairvue Farms
Joe Murphy, Fairview Farms
George Norman, CoOwner, Normandry Farm LLC
Kip Kolesinkas, Chair, Working Alliance

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

One individual submitted testimony in opposition of the bill. They state that dairy farmers do not play as significant of a role as they are often cited to be in Connecticut. They believe that a broader policy approach that approaches the full structure of the state's agriculture is more effective than this legislation.

Reported by: Samuel Clark, Tatyana Massa, Megan Oros, & Lawrence Sanchez **Date:** 4/10/26