



P.O. Box 30
One Regency Drive
Bloomfield, CT 06002
800-562-0610
Fax: 860-286-0787
Email: Info@CNLA.biz
www.cnla.biz

Esteemed Members of the Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth:

Exempting property classified as farm land under Public Act 490 from the estate tax would be of enormous benefit to many agricultural businesses that are looking to transition to the next generation.

As you are all aware, land is quite expensive in Connecticut. Public Act 490 is the only viable preservation program for agriculture's largest stakeholder in the state, the nursery/greenhouse industry. Thousands are currently employed and many businesses are looking to expand, given the projected rise in expense of trucking based on federally mandated electronic logging devices (ELDs). Many stakeholders own land that is not currently in production, and there is a steady demand for more product than we can currently supply.

Exempting such lands from estate taxes would serve as an excellent reassurance that farms remain profitable for years to come, whether currently in use or immediately available for expansion. Revenue lost from estate taxes would balance out quickly by allowing profitable businesses to focus on expansion and increased profitability. This would translate into more long term revenue for the state if farms didn't have to pay off debt from estate taxes.

We would lastly like to commend the commission for your work so far. We are proud to be farmers, and look forward to passing this rich tradition on for many generations with your assistance.

Sincerely,

Dustyn Nelson
Darryl Newman
Legislative Co-Chairs
Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association