

CT NOFA's Policy Vision

- A clean and healthy environment for everyone, regardless of where they live, with special emphasis on protecting vulnerable people and communities.
- Organic farming, gardening, and land care to protect human and environmental health, and as essential solutions to our climate and biodiversity crises.
- Funding for rapid agricultural disaster assistance in the face of the changing climate.
- Land access and opportunity for new and beginning farmers, centering racial justice.
- Fresh, healthy, and locally grown food available to everyone, regardless of income, and across the life cycle, from childhood to old age.
- Support for Connecticut's unique agriculture, with smaller and more diversified farms compared to other regions of the country.

What I've been working on at the Capitol:

SJ 37 CT Environmental Rights Amendment: Would put the rights of the people to clean and healthy air, water, soil, ecosystems, and environment, and a safe and stable climate into the Declaration of Rights in the CT Constitution.
Status: Had public hearing in the Government Administration and Elections Committee, waiting on committee vote

HB 5155 Pesticide Reporting Modernization Act: Would require the CT DEEP to create a searchable database with the information on pesticide applications that licensed applicators are already required to keep, and would require seed handlers to report sales of pesticide-treated seeds
Status: passed Environment Committee

HB 5156 Climate Change Superfund Act: Making polluters pay for climate and climate adaptation: Specifically testified for funding to go to damage to farms and crop losses due to climate change and for infrastructure for farms to adapt to climate change.
Status: passed Environment Committee

Appropriations Committee: requested \$300,000 for two staff to implement the Farmland Access Grant Program
Status: Had hearing Appropriations Committee, will be waiting on budget bills up until the end.

HB 5144: Funding for School Meals: Would pay for free school breakfasts, and reimburse school districts for the difference between the Federal reimbursement rate for reduced-price and fully paid school meals. Specifically submitted testimony asking to extend funding to universal school meals. Reinforced recommendations for establishing a permanent Food and Nutrition Fund, requiring 15% of spending on school meals go to CT farms, and programs for reducing food waste in schools.
Status: Had public hearing in Appropriations Committee, will be waiting on budget bills up until the end

HB 5323: Revisions to Education Statutes: Section 3 would set up a working group on Holistic Food Education to develop state-wide food education roadmap and model school nutrition curriculum
Status: Had public hearing in Education Committee, waiting on committee vote

Others: **SB 149** to allow FMNP benefits to be used at farmstands & mobile markets, **SB 319** to transition from gas-powered leaf blowers to electric, **HB 5156** to protect riparian buffers across the state