

Dear Senator Hashim,

I am providing written testimony for the Right to Farm Bill S.45.

The Legislators should take into consideration how the issuing of farming determinations in highly populated areas, such as cities, has a detrimental effect on residents. In the outlier case of 8 Taft Street in Essex Junction a farming determination was given to a resident on a city backyard allowing up to 100 livestock, while the resident was facing fines from the City of Essex Junction. I want legislators to know that in this specific case of 8 Taft Street Essex Junction:

1. Farming determination was utilized to evade municipal zoning and livestock ordinances.
2. Farming determination has had a negative impact on the adjoining small city properties by neighbors enduring feces, feathers, noises and water run off from livestock onto their backyards.

In sum, I want legislators to realize that farming laws do not currently serve urban city lots. Farming laws should not be utilized to preclude urban municipalities from regulating farming activities into permissible zones. More importantly farming laws should not enable a city resident to become exempt from all forms of municipal regulations in order to evade and have immunity from city development review board determinations and fines. This specific outlier case of 8 Taft Street in Essex Junction has made residents question the integrity of the Vermont Department of Agriculture.

I hope my testimony can inform legislators to make common sense farming laws.

Sincerely,
Craig Dwyer