



NEW HAMPSHIRE FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

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January 23, 2025

House Finance Committee
C/o The Honorable Kenneth Weyler, Chairman
Legislative Office Building, Room 210-211
33 North State Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: *HB 246-FN-A, directing the state conservation committee to implement the conservation district climate resilience grant program and making an appropriation therefor.*

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

New Hampshire Farm Bureau (NHFB) supports *HB 246-FN-A*. The county Farm Bureau delegates at our annual meeting this past November adopted specific policy supporting the NH Conservation Districts Climate Resilience Grant Program. We do this knowing state funds are limited but that there is a demonstrated need and the program has a proven record that can be built on, one that provides resource management benefits statewide – not only to farmers but for the greater community.

To this point, the program has utilized solely private funding to assist forward thinking farmers by putting them at the cutting edge of technologies in the areas of energy efficiency & renewable energy, pest management, soil health, and water usage. Nearly 100 farms statewide have been awarded funding over the three years the program has existed.

State funding at \$50,000 a year will be enough to continue to leverage private funding at or near current private funding levels as it will demonstrate buy-in from state leaders.

In closing, we wish to outline why this program is deserving of state funding:

- It addresses a need benefiting all NH citizens.
- State funds will leverage private funds.
- The program has a proven track record with an existing process in place that has been developed over the past three years.
- Funding recipients have “skin in the game” as the program is a cost-share with recipients required to cover 25% of project costs.
- No state funds go towards program administration. The administrative piece already exists.

This model is the New Hampshire, the way we believe grant funding should work. We thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,

Robert Johnson, II, Policy Director/Administrator

New Hampshire Farm Bureau (NHFB) is a non-profit federation, established in 1916, of New Hampshire's 10 county Farm Bureau organizations which consist of 2,500 NH farm families and supporting members statewide. NHFB is dedicated to advocating for and educating the public about agriculture. NHFB is a general farm organization where the members establish policy and direction through a member driven policy development process. We are “The Voice of Agriculture” in New Hampshire.