



Interreligious Eco-Justice Network
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RE: HB 6273, An Act Establishing Funding for Farmers Who Have Crop Loss Due to Significant Acute Weather Events

Dear Senator Lopes, Rep Parker, Senator Hochadel, Rep. Bumgartner, and esteemed members of the Environment Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of *HB 6273, An Act Concerning the Establishing Funding for Farmers Who Have Crop Loss Due to Significant Acute Weather Events.*

The Interreligious Eco-Justice Network is a faith-based environmental organization that works with religious communities on environmental issues, such as climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. Religious communities are on the front lines of addressing needs in their communities; they assist people when they lose their jobs, struggle with health issues, or suffer disaster. When an area is hit with extreme weather events, houses of worship step in to support people who are impacted.

Clergy in farming communities report that farmers in their pews are experiencing severe crop loss from extreme weather. In 2023, for example, CT farms experienced \$30M in crop loss. Climate change and extreme weather threatens the lifeblood of those farming communities and the local farms that our state needs.

IREJN supports HB 6273, which will provide funding and support for CT farmers who suffer crop loss. We are also supporting other climate change bills this session, which will help address climate change through a variety of strategies, including nature-based solutions and climate-smart agriculture.

We urge you to vote yes on HB 6273 and support CT farmers.

Very best regards,

Terri Eickel, Executive Director

