

March 11, 2010

Chairmen and Members of the Appropriations Committee

I have come here today to thank you for your help in the past as well as to ask for your help in the future. I am a dairy farmer who wants to continue to produce food for Connecticut's people. I must remind you as legislators we need you to continue to maintain the support for all Connecticut farmers. Please leave the Community Investment Act funds intact to continue to provide a vital source of dairy support to keep thousands of acres of farmland in active agricultural use.

A farmer has a faith to continually meet the challenges of his capabilities amid an ever-present possibility that an act of God (a late spring frost, hurricane, flood, drought) can bring his business to a stand still. The farmers of Connecticut must have faith that you as members of the legislature will do everything in your power to assure the citizens of Connecticut will have food on their tables in the future.

The Community Investment Act (CIA) is not part of the general fund! As a dedicated fund, it is an investment in the future of Connecticut. Receiving support from the CIA has provided some greater faith in the future. At our farm we are now working on a project to construct an anaerobic digester to capture the methane from cow manure to turn it into Green Energy in the form of electricity to help provide power for our farm as well as the grid. The possibility of providing heat for the local school system is another positive of this project. Having a passion for farming and a faith in the future, we are looking forward to being able to go ahead with this project. This forward thinking would not have been possible had we not received your support in the recent past from CIA funding to keep our farm going.

Thank you.

Paul Miller
Fairvue Farms
Woodstock, Connecticut