

Dear Senator Williams,

3/21/11

My name is William Mosher and I am a Sophomore in the Ellis Clark Agriscience and Technology Program in Woodbury, Connecticut. I live in Bethlehem and I attend this regional agriscience school choice program because it teaches skills and allows me to practice agriculture unlike other high school courses.

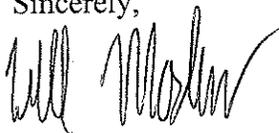
Students here can learn how to fell trees, repair a motor, maintain small and large animals, and more. Overall we learn the basic fundamentals of being self-reliant and independent. I personally have taken an interest in Conservation and Production. Conservation teaches the wise management of our natural resources so we can use them and continue to use them in the future. Production is based on how to raise healthy livestock and collect sufficient products.

As a requirement for the Agriscience Course each student must participate in a SAE, Supervised Agricultural Experience. Students must get a job or volunteer in the Agricultural Industry, and apply our skills out of school. I work at Alpaca Connection, as a farm hand, where we care for over one hundred alpacas. They are wool and show animals that are valued anywhere from \$5,000 – \$200,000. This program has gotten me involved with the work atmosphere and allowed me to start saving for a truck and college.

In the future I wish to own my own business, probably in the field of agriculture and be involved with the wildlife conservation programs for the state, possibly as a park ranger or a Conservation Officer. The Agriscience and Technology Program, has different meetings, classes, and programs that help us focus on future job selection and resources to help us achieve them. The Agriscience program has enabled me and other students to prepare to be put in the Connecticut working class.

I am writing this letter to encourage you to **please urge the Appropriations Committee to pledge 9 million dollars of the school choice funding increases proposed in the Governor's budget to the state's 19 regional (vo-ag) agriscience programs.** Our agriscience programs have been drastically underfunded for over 20 years as compared to the magnet schools, charter schools, vocational technical schools and the other school choice funding programs. This will allow hundreds of more students like me to enroll in these successful programs so they will have the same positive experience I am having now. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter

Sincerely,



Will Mosher