

Dear Senator Harp,

3/23/11

My name is Sawyer Nelson and I am a Junior in the Nonnewaug Agriscience program in Woodbury CT. I live in Southbury CT and I attend this regional agriscience school choice program because I am interested in Landscaping and Mechanics. I've always wanted to be in the ag industry whether its landscaping or ag mechanics. I heard about ag when I was in eighth grade. I sent my application in and I was so eager to get my acceptance letter. When it came and said I was accepted I was so happy. Last year I took landscaping in the fall and mechanics in the spring. This year I took landscaping because my schedule was full.

I left some of my good friends from Southbury to come here but I have now made better friends here because they have the same interests. Nonnewaug is a small school with about eight hundred students or a little more. I am going to take mechanics next year and landscaping. My goal one day is to work for John Deere as a mechanic and hopefully advance to a manager of a branch. The ag program is vey important to me and the school should be treated like all other school choice program.

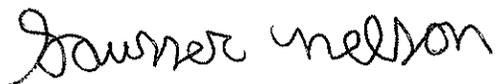
I am writing this letter to encourage you to **please urge the Appropriations Committee to pledge 9 million dollars of the school choice funding increases proposed in the Governor's budget to the state's 19 regional (vo-ag) agriscience programs.**

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,



Sawyer Nelson