

3/28/2011

Dear Senator Harp,

My name is Fred Wenhardt and I am a junior in the Nonnewaug agriscience program in Woodbury. I live in Watertown and I attend this regional agriscience school choice program because from a young age I loved the outdoors and wanted to make it a part of my formal education when I got older. As long as I could remember I loved being outside, and even joined Boy Scouts when I was old enough. In Boy Scouts, my love for nature flourished, as I went on dozens of outings, including to Maine and the Appalachian Trail. When I started looking at high schools, I realized that I wanted an education involving the outdoors, and I knew Nonnewaug was the right choice for me.

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. (Please see attached flyer with details)

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,

Fred Wenhardt