

March 21, 2011

State Senator Toni Harp  
Appropriations Committee Co-Chair  
Legislative Office Building, 2700  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear Senator Scott L. Frantz

My name is Shatorra Wilson and I am a junior in the agriscience program. I live in Stamford, CT. and I attend this regional agriscience school choice program because I feel like it's a great opportunity for me to learn more about agriculture. Like plants, animals, fish, etc. I never cared so much until I joined agriscience, I mean like my biggest fear was dogs until I started doing doggie daycare every Tuesday, and now I'm getting a dog. I could've cared less if a plant lived or died until I learned how to care for one during our spring plant sale setup. You see agriscience has opened so many opportunities for me I've learned so much so quickly. I like this program because there's so much to learn, even if we don't take field trips I feel like I'm on one already, just by leaving the actual Westhill building and going over to the agriscience building. In the future I plan to be a veterinarian because I really entruly love working with animals, I'm not saying doggie daycare is the only thing I like in agriscience but it's the main thing that sticks out to me. I usually work with this dog named "lulu"and she's the best dog a person can have I absolutely love her and she's not even mine. Truthfully my SAE hours didn't really start until this summer and I will be planting flowers and cleaning my guinea pigs cage, it's not a lot but it does get me off to a great start seeing how this is my first year in the agriscience program. As for my involvement in the FFA, I feel that the agriscience program gives me just the motivation and leadership skills I need to succeed in any job or training that I do. So basically I thank the agriscience program and I believe I owe all of my love and credit of animals and plants to them.

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)