

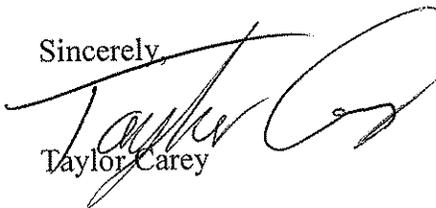
March 23, 2011

Dear Senator Harp,

My name is Taylor Carey and I am a senior in the Ellis Clark agriscience program in Woodbury CT. I live in Sherman CT and I attend this regional agriscience school choice program because I have always been interested in equipment and have always loved running machines and working with my hands and just getting dirty. I like to do things that help others as well as make me happy. I like doing something that I can see what I have done at the end of the day. At this high school I have learned how to butcher cows, rebuilt engines, weld extremely well, how to give cows shots and IVs, most of all I have gained confidence by being at this school. Also part of the program requires everyone to have a job, for my job I work at the Kimberly Farm in New Milford. At this farm we farm over 1300 acres total of hay, sweet corn, and other vegetables. I have used many skills that I learned at school at the farm as well as at friends' places. At this farm over the course of four years I have accumulated a little over 4500 hours. After high school ends I am going to work for Harlem Valley Materials a gravel pit in Wassaic NY as a Loader and excavator operator.

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,



Taylor Carey