

3/21/11

Dear Senator Toni Harp,

My name is Taylor Deschamps and I am a Junior in the Lebanon Regional agriscience program in Lebanon. I live in Franklin and I attend this regional agriscience school choice program because I am able to have many different opportunities here that I can not get anywhere else around me. I am a member in the FFA because of the agriscience program here, and I get to participate in many things because of it. I went to national convention in Indianapolis, Indiana as a delegate sophomore year because of the FFA and met many new people. I also was recently in a floral design competition that I ended up getting third place out of nine contestants. This is a huge accomplishment for me because now I really see what I have done my last couple years here in the agriscience department. I am a very active student with the FFA. I go to different conferences that the FFA holds such as Junior and Advanced leadership conferences that teach us important things that we may need later in life such as public speaking, or simple things such as how to write an amazing collage application. They also help with time management, being a leader, and how to work better in groups. The agriscience department has helped me and many others realize what potential they really have. One of the main things that attracted me to Lyman was the agriscience department because I like working with flowers whether it be floral design or just planting.

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,



Taylor Deschamps