

March 21, 2011

Representative Toni Harp

Appropriators Committee Co-Chair

Legislative Office Building, Room 2700

Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear Toni Harp,

My name is Morgan Taliercio and I am a sophomore in the Stamford Regional Agriscience and Technology Program. I live in Norwalk and I attend this regional Agriscience School because I absolutely love animals and learning about nature. I really enjoy every sixth and seventh period of the day because I get to go to my favorite class, Agriscience. Every day that I step into my Agriscience class, I get a feeling of security, I feel that I belong to something bigger than myself. I feel accepted, like I can make a difference. If the Agriscience program were to lose funding, I don't know what I would do. Agriscience is such a big part of my life; as much as everybody else's, even if they don't know it. This program teaches teenagers how to be responsible for not only themselves, but for others including the community and the welfare and good nature of our planet.

I personally think if anything, our funds should be raised. I think we should also add a new teacher to our staff of Agriscience educators. I understand that this would cause an increase in our budget, but I personally believe that if we were to get a new Ag teacher that kids would do better in not only Agriscience, but in school overall. That's what happened to me. This year I entered into my new Agriscience class on the first day of school, unaware that I was meeting my favorite teacher ever. She has taught me how to take on tasks that I don't believe I could have ever done. She has given me the courage to be myself and not care what others think of me. She has taught me how to interact with people better as well as how to react when a disagreement occurs. She has taught me the importance of patience and how to care for something not just because you have to, but also because it's right to.

Those are just some of the many things that Agriscience teachers can do for you. I believe that by adding another teacher into the great mix of the Agriscience staff, it would give a greater opportunity for students to not only grow intellectually, but to also grow as a person.

I don't just see Agriscience as another class; I see it as a family. Six months ago those kids in my class were just new faces that I had to share a classroom with. Now, they are some of my greatest and most