

**Senator Toni Harp**

Appropriations Committee Co-Chair  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2700  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear: **Toni Harp**

My name is Tom Graham and I am a junior in the Wamogo Agri science program in Litchfield. I live in Litchfield and I attend an agri science school choice program because I want to learn about forestry and urban forestry and all I can about different types of trees that will help me in the future to own a tree business. I continue to be here because the other schools that I have been to do not do these kind of activities as Wamogo. They let you do hand on activities rather than reading or taking notes all day like your regular school would make you do. For my SAE I have a placement where I get paid for my agriculture work outside of school. The FFA has helped me with self-discipline and has taught me how to perform parliamentary procedure and how to organize my money so I don't spend all of it on nonsense. 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,

Tom Graham

  
