

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
344 Merrow Road, Suite A
Tolland, CT 06084-3917
(860) 871-4011

Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 1000
Hartford, CT 06106

February 16, 2011

Dear members of the Committee,

This letter serves as an opportunity to provide information to the Committee on the nomination of Steven Reviczky for Commissioner of Agriculture.

My name is Kip Kolesinskas, and I am State Soil Scientist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Connecticut. I have worked with Mr. Reviczky in a number of capacities. In his position as a property agent with the Farmland Preservation Program, and State Agency representative to the Connecticut Council on Soil and Water Conservation, he was one of the primary contacts with NRCS in leveraging federal funds to match state funds in purchasing conservation easements on farms, as well as other conservation programs. Steve served the State as an excellent representative who effectively managed complex Federal, State, and landowner requirements to complete projects.

In Mr. Reviczky's position as Executive Director of Connecticut Farm Bureau Assn., I again had the opportunity to work with him on a variety of projects, including outreach to the agricultural community on Federal programs, proactive educational outreach on wetlands laws, and climate change adaptation strategies. Steve's leadership abilities, commitment to growing the agricultural economy, conservation ethic, and knowledge of the subject matter, all were key to making these efforts successful.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service in Connecticut is a decentralized federal agency of conservation experts which annually provides 12 to 15 million dollars in funding for conservation projects in Connecticut. The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is an important partner in these efforts. We would look forward to continuing and growing our successful relationship with Mr. Steven Reviczky as the Commissioner of Agriculture. Thank you for considering this information.

Sincerely,

Kipen J. Kolesinskas
State Soil Scientist, Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program Manager
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Connecticut

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