



448 Jonathan Trumbull Hwy
Columbia, CT 06237
www.cloverleighfarm.com

March 16, 2021

Dear Senator McCrory, Representative Sanchez, Senator Daugherty-Abrams, Representative Barry, and members of the Education Committee,

My name is Susan Mitchell and I own and operate Cloverleigh Farm, a certified-organic diversified vegetable farm in Columbia (Tolland County). Over the past several years, I have sold a small volume to produce to several area school districts and have developed wonderful relationships with school food service directors and the team at UConn Extension who has done extensive work to create the K-12 “Put Local On Your Tray” program.

I write today in support of HB 6621: An Act Concerning Assorted Revisions and Additions to Education Statutes and ask for your support as well. Included in this bill is a new “CT Grown for CT Kids” grant program, which will help enrich the connection communities have with fresh, local, healthy food and local producers like myself, by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and early care and education sites.

The “CT Grown for CT Kids” grant program is a triple win: for our children, who deserves nutritious and delicious food at school; for our farmers, who need an opportunity for growth; and for our economy, which is strengthened by farm businesses who are employers, stewards of working land, pillars of our communities, and taxpayers.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Mitchell
Owner/Operator