

Thursday, January 23, 2025

Dear Members of House Finance:

I am writing in support of House Bill 246, to provide funding for an agricultural climate resilience program. This bill will help improve food security, benefit local economies, and protect the environment. In consideration of threats to our small farms from climate change, the state of New Hampshire needs to take its proper role in providing the needed infrastructure to insure our sustainable future.

The food security that is inherent in small farms are essential to our local food chains. Local food supply chains do not carry the burdensome cost of transportation that occurs with reliance upon imports. Delivery disruptions such as happened during the Covid crisis is something that no one wants to see repeated.

Small farms also support local economies, circulating dollars within our communities rather than exporting them before their true value is recovered. Again, think of the price of eggs and whether that profit margin finds its way onto our local tax rolls or ends up in the pockets of Midwestern agribusiness CEOs.

Environmentally, small farms work in our favor, by being able to employ long standing practices such as diversity with crop rotation and no till agriculture that reduces our reliance on synthetic nitrogen. The local small farmer has a bond with the land that insures sustainability in the way that agribusiness is unable to accomplish.

It is little wonder that the vision of our American founders held a revered place for agriculture. Thomas Jefferson went so far as to use the term "agrarian republic" to magnify the importance of self-reliance with agriculture being the base of our independence.

With some funding in place, our State needs to find its rightful place at the table by insuring a fully funded and viable agricultural climate resilience program. We do this, if not for our sake but for those that will inherit the economy that we have been charged to manage.

Sincerely,

Representative Lucius Parshall  
Cheshire District 8  
Science, Technology and Energy