

Theresa Utton-Jerman

Subject: FW: Working Lands Appropriation Testimony

From: Christina Wilcox

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Hi there I went to Dorset last night and spoke about the positive impact the grant that Wilcox Ice Cream Received back in 2016 had on our business and its importance in the rebuilding project of our facility. I did not have anything in writing to leave so I am emailing this to you.

Wilcox Ice Cream received a 16,000 grant back in 2016 to help us with refurbishing an existing building for a new manufacturing plant. Our plant burned in 2001 and we had not been able to rebuild for 15 years. The grant we received effectively was our cash down on our loan to renovate a 2500 square foot production facility in East Arlington. Without this grant I am not sure that we would have been able to rebuild and our family business that has been operated since 1879 may have had to close. The grant helped us get up and going again. We were also able to buy the building and install a 4,000 square foot freezer. Today we are manufacturing numerous brands in our factory and have increased our production in the summer by 3 times.

I ask that you please invest strongly in the Working Lands Enterprise Fund with a 3 Million appropriation to support our working lands enterprises and keep our land open and productive here in Vermont.

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Christina Wilcox, VP

Wilcox Ice Cream

5th Generation