

THE CELLARS ^{at} JASPER HILL FARM

Mateo Kehler
Jasper Hill Farm
Greensboro, VT
Working Lands Enterprise Initiative Grant Recipient

February 28, 2023

Hon Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committee:

I am writing to ask that you support the Working Lands Coalition's funding request for the Working Lands Enterprise Initiative for Fiscal Year 2024. As a recipient of Working Lands Grant monies I can attest to the impact this program has had on our business.

Working Lands Grants have:

- Allowed us to innovate in ways that have positioned Jasper Hill as a thought leader in our industry.
- Have leveraged millions of dollars of investment in our Business and enterprises across the State that wouldn't have otherwise been made.
- Have allowed our agricultural business as well as dozens of others along with forestry businesses to diversify and build new markets.
- Have supported employment and attracted young people to our business from across the country and as well as creating opportunities for many young people in our community, many of whom would otherwise have left Vermont.

Please support the Governor's appropriation of \$4 million for the Working Lands Enterprise Initiative and make the full \$4 million base funding.

We believe this program and the investments the State of Vermont is making in the future of our Working Lands are fundamental to the future of Our economy, the Character of our state, and are in keeping with the Values of Vermonter's across the State.

Thank you,



Mateo Kehler
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