

March 3, 2023

From:

Vermont Farm and Cheese Collaborative L3C

Jeremy Stephenson
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To:

House and Senate Appropriations Committee

I am writing the ask that you support the Governor's appropriation of \$4 million for the Working Lands Enterprise Initiative and make the full \$4 million base funding.

Working Lands Enterprise funding has helped tremendously with helping top start the Vermont Farms and Cheese Collaborative which is dedicated to working with farmers to maintain a sustainable price for their milk through the production of value added products such as cheese.

This funding source has helped a tremendous number of small businesses in the farming and forestry sector generate more jobs and income. The tax dollars spent on this program are a financial lever which lifts and generates far more than is spent for our State.

As a Vermont taxpayer, I am confident that the Governors appropriation of \$4 million as base funding for this program is wise and well justified.

Sincerely,
Jeremy Stephenson