

GOOD AFTERNOON, EVERYONE. MY NAME IS PEDRO UBALDO CRUZ.

I'M FROM SHELDON, VERMONT, AND I'M AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER WITH VERMONT ADULT LEARNING.

I AM HERE TODAY TO ASK YOU TO PLEASE INCREASE BASE FUNDING FOR AEL SERVICE PROVIDERS BY \$1.5 MILLION.

WHY DO I ASK THIS?

I HAVE NEEDED ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION TO IMPROVE MY LIFE AND WORK. WITHOUT THE INSTRUCTION, I COULDN'T DO SO MUCH HERE IN VERMONT, OR HELP KEEP THE DAIRY INDUSTRY GOING STRONG, AS I TRY TO DO.

BECAUSE I KNOW MORE ENGLISH, I AM ABLE TO HELP NEW WORKERS, COMMUNICATE BETTER WITH MY BOSSES, CONTINUE MY EDUCATION, AND CONTRIBUTE TO MY COMMUNITY.

VERMONT ADULT LEARNING IS JUST ONE AEL AGENCY WHO NEEDS INCREASED FUNDS FOR SUPPLIES, RENT, TEACHER SALARIES AND PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT PEOPLE LIKE ME WHO HELP VERMONT'S ECONOMY.

SO, I ASK AGAIN, TO PLEASE SUPPORT AELN'S REQUEST TO INCREASE BASE FUNDING FOR AEL SERVICE PROVIDERS BY \$1.5 MILLION.