

April 24, 2018

Dear Member of the General Assembly,

I am writing you today in emphatic support of Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund and its direct positive impact on our company, [Trifecta Ecosystems, Inc.](#) As an aquaponic technology and indoor farming company, energy efficiency is a crucial part of making our company sustainable. This program has the potential to affect not only our business but our entire industry. It is our belief that Connecticut can be the leading state in the nation for indoor farming, should we choose to seize the opportunity. The Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund gives Connecticut a major competitive edge on attracting innovative indoor farming companies and we urge you to maintain the fund to drive this economic growth.

In March 2017, we made an expansion to 290 Pratt Street in Meriden as the next step in our business journey. We revitalized a portion of a building that was empty for years and turned it into a highly productive indoor farm, growing food all year round in Meriden. While we were in the process of planning this new facility, we were able to get a broad range of support from Eversource in connection to using LED lighting for our new growing operation. Their expertise and guidance allowed us to receive nearly \$44,000 in rebates, which was a substantial amount for a small business like ourselves. As we opened up our facility last year, we were able to host a tour for the CT Farm Energy Program, which the utility companies were a part of. Not only were all guests impressed by our growing operation, but they also were impacted by the fact that we save approximately \$45,000 in electricity costs per year per farm by using LED lighting, which is a win-win as it reduces the load on the grid.

Restoring the CT Energy Efficiency Fund to full funding will not just help small businesses like ours expand and open new locations, but it also will create new jobs that currently do not exist. While we are a small company of only 6 people, the rebate that we received from the CT Energy Efficiency Fund allowed us to hire another full-time employee. As we look to expand to new locations over the next year, we see the rebates as a pathway for us to hire more people locally. One of the joys of being a business owner is providing jobs to people who are looking for a more rewarding career. Knowing how many people interviewed for that 1



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position created because of the rebate, we know that there are a lot of people who want jobs in our field. We want to provide them with these jobs, and we look to the CT Energy Efficiency Fund as a peice of the puzzle.

While the state has financial problems, taking money from the CT Energy Efficiency Fund is not the correct course of action. We believe the CT Energy Efficiency Fund can help the state with its financial problems, given its proven record of allowing businesses to expand, upgrade their facilities, and hire more people, thereby making the CT business environment more competitive throughout the country. By fully restoring the fund, more innovative projects will arise in CT, thus playing its intended role in the progression of the CT economy.

If you would like to learn more about our company Trifecta Ecosystems, Inc and how we envision our expansion throughout the state using the CT Energy Efficiency Fund, we would like to host you for a tour of our facility at 290 Pratt Street, Meriden.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Francis", followed by two dots.

Eric Francis

Owner and Chief Development Officer

prepared by:
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