

July 12, 2012

Honorable Betty Jean Grant
Erie County Legislature
95 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Madame Chair:

Please accept this letter as a request for reappointment to the Erie County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board as an agricultural businessperson. My current term expired on May 31, 2012.

Enclosed is information regarding my background and qualifications for serving on this important advisory group.

Please contact me at dheld@farmland.org or 716-652-0100 should you require additional information.

Very truly yours,



Diane B. Held

Cc: Terence McCracken
Brett Kreher, Chair, Erie County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board
Thomas J. Dearing

Diane B. Held
21 S. Grove Street East Aurora, NY 14052
dheld@farmland.org
716.471.7134

CORE QUALIFICATIONS

- Able to direct, motivate and support others in a cooperative team environment
- Effective administration of grants and contracts
- Hands on fundraising and grant writing experience
- Innovative program development and implementation
- Comprehensive knowledge of budgets and fiscal management
- Experience working with diverse populations

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

American Farmland Trust (AFT) – East Aurora, NY **2003 to present**
Senior New York Field Manager

- Working with local governments, elected officials, food and agricultural organizations, and the public to lead farmland protection programs and advocacy in Western New York

Cornell University Cooperative Extension of Erie County - East Aurora, NY **2006 to 2007**
Extension Educator

- Worked with agricultural business owners and service providers to enhance viability of local farms, and served as interim Executive Director for six months

Phillips Family Farm, Inc. - North Collins, NY **1990 to 2006**
Financial Manager

- Managed all financial planning and bookkeeping for large farm business

LEAD New York, Cornell University - Ithaca, NY **1998 to 2002**
Program Consultant

- Developed and implemented multi-session, regional leadership programs for food and agricultural professionals

Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell University - Ithaca, NY **1998 to 2000**
Conference Planner

- Coordinated all aspects of Cornell University sponsored conference held in Buffalo for over 400 attendees

Program Consultant **1989 to 1991**

- Organized and directed educational program at Cornell University for 500 New York State teens, and worked with Cornell faculty and staff to implement this program

Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University – Ithaca, NY **1986 to 1989**
Extension Associate

- Worked with department faculty to develop environmental and natural sciences education programs for youth in New York State

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EDUCATION

Cornell University – Ithaca, NY
Bachelor of Science, Agriculture

State University of New York at Buffalo – Buffalo, NY
Master of Science, Environmental Studies

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

New York State Agricultural Society, Vice President
Grassroots Gardens of Buffalo, Treasurer
LEAD New York Graduate
Western New York Land Conservancy
Student Conservation Association