

**From:** "TownManager@wrutland.org%inter2" <TownManager@wrutland.org>  
**Subject:** Farm Bill  
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Town of West Rutland  
35 Marble St. West Rutland, VT 05777 (802) 438-2263,  
fax 438-5133

October 26, 2005

Mike Johanns, Secretary of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-3355

Subject: Farm Bill

Dear Mr. Johanns,

West Rutland would like explain how important the Rural Development Program has been to our community. We have successfully rebuilt the Town's infrastructure during the last decade. This has had a very positive impact on our community and it could not have happen without the support of Rural Development.

Rural Development provided both a grant and a loan to rebuild the municipal water system. RD also provided a loan to build a new highway department garage. In addition to funds, RD provided expertise of various sorts to make the projects proceed and create excellent finished products.

West Rutland exists due to it's rich marble deposits that formerly created a thriving economy. The marble industry is now defunct and that created a dramatic tax base decline which resulted in the total deterioration of the infrastructure. We are a small community of 2,535 people. However we are a self contained small city, in that we have a water system, wastewater system and a highway department. The tax base is primarily residential with very little commercial and industrial properties, consequently large infrastructure projects are impossible to self fund. We could not have rebuilt our community without the assistance of Rural Development.

Sincerely,

Tom Yennerell  
Town Manager

CC: Jon Muse  
Via e-mail