



## National Association of Conservation Districts

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August 11, 2009

The Honorable Daniel Inouye  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
722 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable David Obey  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2112 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) represents the nation's 3,000 conservation districts and 17,000 men and women who serve on their governing boards. Conservation districts are local units of government established under state law to carry out natural resource management programs at the local level. Conservation districts help state and federal partners work with landowners on a variety of conservation programs.

NACD appreciates the work Congress has done to pass fiscal year 2010 (FY10) appropriations bill on schedule. As Congress finalizes FY10 appropriations bills, NACD would like to express continued support for the Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) program under the Conservation Operations (CO) account of the Agriculture bill. CTA funding is critical in providing landowners assistance in planning, designing and implementing conservation practices that have many conservation benefits including improved water quality, soil health, and wildlife habitat.

The Senate-passed Agriculture bill substantially changes budget line items within the Conservation Operations account by including the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program. NACD strongly supports language provided in the House Agriculture bill that maintains RC&D funding at a minimum of \$50,730,000 as a separate line item fund as has been historically done.

NACD continues to respectfully request an appropriation of \$924.446 million for the Conservation Operations account, excluding RC&D funding, for the delivery of conservation technical assistance to landowners across the country.

On behalf of the nation's conservation districts, thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Steve Robinson  
President

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