



National Association of Conservation Districts

March 2, 2006

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chair, Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, and Science
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
S-146A Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, and Science
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
S-146A Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby and Ranking Member Mikulski:

On behalf of the nation's 3,000 conservation districts, I am pleased to provide you with recommendations for fiscal year 2007 funding for selected conservation and natural resource programs under your subcommittee's jurisdiction.

Established under state law, conservation districts are local units of government charged with carrying out programs for the protection and management of natural resources at the local level. They work with a wide array of landowners and operators to help them protect and conserve natural resources on private working lands in the United States. In that capacity, conservation districts work closely with a number of NOAA coastal programs that are at the forefront of protecting the nation's coastal waters and related resources

NACD recommends the following appropriations for selected NOAA programs in fiscal year 2007:

- CZM Grants (§306/306A/309) \$67 million
- Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation \$40 million
- CZMA Administration \$7.2 million
- Sea Grant \$54.8 million

The partnership of conservation districts, state conservation agencies and NOAA provides land managers with critical technical help in protecting and improving the quantity and quality of our coastal and related resources. If properly managed America's private working lands will provide many benefits to our citizens, including clean water and air, fish and wildlife habitat and open space. Conservation districts and their partners help make this possible.

We appreciate your consideration of our recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bill Wilson'.

Bill Wilson
President