National Association of Conservation Districts

March 2, 2006

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici
Chair, Subcommittee Energy and
Water, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
2362 Russell Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Ranking Member, Subcommittee Energy and
Water, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House Senate
2362 Russell Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Domenici and Ranking Member Reid:

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. In that capacity, conservation districts, particularly in the West, work closely with the Bureau of Reclamation in its efforts to effectively manage the limited water resources in the region.

NACD encourages your subcommittee to continue support for the successful partnerships developed among Reclamation, conservation districts and others by including specific language in the fiscal year 2007 appropriations bill directing the bureau to use its authority to provide financial assistance in the form of grants and/or cooperative agreements, through the Water Conservation Field Services (WCFS) Program, Bridging the Headgate Partnership and the Water 2025 Initiative to any state or local entity having an interest in water conservation and the promotion of efficient use of water resources. We recommend the following funding for FY'07:

- Water Conservation Field Services $20 million
- Water 2025 Challenge Grants $23 million
- Klamath Project $23 million

We also urge your subcommittee to include specific language in the fiscal year 2007 appropriations bill directing the Bureau of Reclamation to use its authority to provide financial assistance in the form of grants and/or cooperative agreements, through the USBR Water Conservation Field Services Program, Bridging the Headgate Partnership and the Water 2025 Initiative to any state or local entity having an interest in water conservation and the promotion of efficient use of water resources.

The partnership of conservation districts, state conservation agencies and Reclamation provides land managers with critical technical and financial help in protecting and improving the quantity and quality of our nation's water resources. If properly managed America's water resources will continue to benefit our agriculture, our economy and our people. Conservation districts and their partners help make this possible.

We appreciate your consideration of our recommendations.

Sincerely,

Bill Wilson
President

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