



National Association of Conservation Districts

March 16, 2010

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Interior and Environment
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior and Environment
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman and Ranking Member:

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) represents 3,000 local conservation districts across the country and on the Pacific islands. These districts are local units of government established under state law to carry out natural resource management programs at the local level and have 17,000 producers and others interested in promoting conservation serving on their governing boards. Conservation districts work with private landowners to carry out conservation programs, including the State and Private Forestry programs under the USDA Forest Service (FS). These programs help provide the necessary technical and financial assistance to landowners and land managers for the continued maintenance of healthy, productive forested lands.

We respectfully request **\$355.04 million** in funding for State and Private Forestry programs in the Fiscal Year 2011 Interior Appropriations Bill, which is \$33.43 million above the President's request. The increased amount is justified because the need to manage conflicting demands on forest resources continues to dramatically increase. Targeted funding on private forestry programs is a cost-effective solution to meeting national needs for renewable energy and other environmental benefits that mitigate climate change impacts.

Multiple use management of our renewable forest resources continues to ensure a wide range of ecosystem services are provided to the general public while maintaining the productivity of the land and protecting the quality of the environment. The partnership of private landowners with state and federal agencies is critical to ensure these benefits continue. State and Private Forestry is the only Forest Service program that provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you as we continue to provide the benefits of natural resource conservation across the country.

Sincerely,

Steve Robinson
NACD President

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