



National Association of Conservation Districts

June 25, 2009

Chairman Collin Peterson
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Peterson:

Thank you for your leadership in negotiating on behalf of agriculture and forestry interests in H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009. The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) supports your amendment to H.R. 2454.

Your amendment provides the necessary leadership role for USDA in structuring a carbon offset program that works for agriculture and forest landowners. The knowledge and expertise throughout USDA is important to crafting a program that allows agriculture producers and forest landowner to assist in off-setting carbon emissions. Conservation districts are working as verifiers of carbon practices today and we look forward to working with USDA and project developers in this capacity as the program is established. We appreciate that producers who have already undertaken actions, or may do so in the future, through Farm Bill conservation programs to benefit soil health, environmental quality and sequester carbon have the opportunity to participate in an offset program. The inclusion of the renewable biomass definition from the 2008 Farm Bill in your amendment is very important to our members.

Again, we thank you for your continued efforts to ensure legislation that will work for agriculture producers and forest landowners and works in coordination with existing conservation programs. NACD is encouraging all Members of the House of Representatives to vote in support of the Peterson amendment to HR 2454.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Robinson', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Steve Robinson
President

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