



National Association of Conservation Districts

May 22, 2009

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Inhofe
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure
United States Senate
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Johnny Isakson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure
United States Senate
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) represents the nation's 3,000 conservation districts and their governing boards. Established under state law, conservation districts are local units of state government charged with carrying out programs for the protection and management of natural resources at the local level. Conservation districts work with federal, state and local agencies to provide technical assistance to address a variety of natural resource issues, including those associated with transportation system construction.

The upcoming reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Act presents an opportunity to address stormwater mitigation and management to reduce soil erosion, sedimentation, and runoff of toxic materials from the nation's federal-aid transportation systems. The generation of additional surface water and the subsequent addition of silt and debris to waterways from transportation construction often cause major runoff problems. Transportation construction involving federal funding should be designed to incorporate multipurpose control structures such as dry flood control dams, desilting and debris basins where practical and feasible.

Inclusion of stormwater management provisions in the upcoming bill can provide control and management of storm water as an integral part of our transportation systems. Carrying out an effective storm water management system requires the involvement and cooperation of all levels of government including conservation districts and a capability to work with planners, developers and contractors so that soil erosion and sedimentation control structures on transportation construction sites can be thoroughly and efficiently integrated with the long-term needs for storm water management.

On behalf of the nation's conservation districts, I encourage the inclusion of stormwater management provisions in the Surface Transportation Bill reauthorization.

Sincerely,

Steve Robinson
President

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