



National Association of Conservation Districts

September 29, 2014

Jason Weller
Chief
Natural Resource Conservation Service
United States Department of Agriculture

Leslie Deavers
Farm Bill Coordinator
Natural Resource Conservation Service
United States Department of Agriculture

Docket No. NRCS-2014-0006

Re: Nondiscretionary Changes to the Natural Resource Conservation Service Conservation Programs

Dear Chief Weller and Ms. Deavers:

On behalf of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), thank you for all the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has done to ensure that the Agriculture Act of 2014's conservation programs have been effectively implemented thus far. Our membership of 3,000 local soil and water conservation districts throughout the country heavily rely on NRCS conservation programs every day when working with private landowners and producers.

NACD understands the amount of pressure the NRCS is under to complete the implementation of the Farm Bill's conservation programs and applauds your success in adhering to the challenging timeline. The rapid progress made by NRCS in implementing the nondiscretionary changes to programs along with programs such as the RCPP allows local soil and water conservation districts to more efficiently and effectively implement conservation practices on the landscape.

In addition to our thanks, we request that the importance of State Technical Committees be strengthened as you move forward in the rule writing process. We're founded upon the locally-led process so we'd like to reinforce that State Technical Committee membership works closely with local work groups to ensure locally-led concerns are adequately represented on the state level.

We hope that the remainder of the Agriculture Act of 2014's program implementation moves as quickly as it has so far. We're also appreciative of the opportunity to provide input as you move forward to help maintain the quality of NRCS conservation programs benefitting both producers and landowners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Earl J. Garber'.

Earl J. Garber
NACD President