



June 8, 2018

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

On behalf of the four organizations that constitute the non-federal partners of the National Conservation Partnership, we commend you for the recent decision to give the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) authority to hire staff.

As we have previously communicated to you, the partnership knows just how important these hires will be to ensure prompt customer service and effective conservation delivery to our nation's private landowners. As you work to improve the USDA customer experience, we look forward to continuing the dialogue so that we can offer the assistance each of our organizations and our members provide to the delivery of conservation across the nation.

By working collaboratively with you, Under Secretary Bill Northey and leadership at USDA, we are confident that our partnership has tremendous opportunity to assist landowners in protecting and conserving our nation's natural resources and stimulating the rural economy. We thank you today for your leadership, and we look forward to continuing this productive dialogue in the future.

Thank you again for your commitment to agriculture and natural resources conservation.

Sincerely,

Brent Van Dyke, President
National Association of
Conservation Districts (NACD)

Cindy Lair, President
National Association of
State Conservation Agencies (NASCA)

Tim Riley, President
National Conservation Districts
Employees Association (NCDEA)

William A. Hodge, President
National Association of
Resource Conservation and Development
Councils (NARC&DC)

Cc: Honorable William Northey, Under Secretary, NRCS Acting Chief Leonard Jordan