



July 2, 2018

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
c/o Stamp Development
U.S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300
Washington, DC 20260-3501

Dear Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee,

We are writing to support the Indiana State Department of Agriculture's proposal for a Soil Health Forever stamp to emphasize the importance of our life-giving, irreplaceable natural resource—soil.

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) is the nonprofit organization that represents America's 3,000 conservation districts and the 17,000 men and women who serve on their governing boards. Conservation districts are local units of government established under state law to carry out natural resource management programs at the local level. Districts work with millions of cooperating landowners and operators to help them manage and protect land and water resources on private and public lands in the United States.

The American agriculture industry faces challenges every single day. Natural resources are becoming scarce, our population is growing, weather is unpredictable, and budgets are tight. In fact, producers are experiencing the greatest four-year percent drop in net farm income since the Great Depression. Over the past 30 years, we've lost 43 million acres of agricultural land to development, that's equivalent to the state of Washington. Of that, 14 million acres are our prime soils—the best soils in the world.

Since 70 percent of the land in the nation is privately owned, the fate of our environment and natural resources rests with our private landowners and operators—the millions of people making decisions about their land every day. A new generation of innovative farmers and ranchers have discovered by keeping soil covered, minimizing disturbance through no-tillage methods, growing diverse crops, and keeping living roots growing as long as possible, they can regenerate and improve the function of their soil. Better yet, they do not have to sacrifice production for conservation; or profitability for sustainability.

Never in the history of our nation have we had so much support from conservation and yet never before have we faced so many challenges. We are working with our partners who are making soil health a top priority because doing so offers prospective benefits to producers across the country and we need your help in creating awareness. We request the United States Postal Service Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to consider a Soil Health Forever Stamp a priority at your next meeting opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Peters', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Jeremy Peters
Chief Executive Officer