

July 27, 2022

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture,
Rural Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Hoeven
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture,
Rural Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Baldwin and Ranking Member Hoeven:

Thank you for your leadership in supporting agricultural producers and important conservation efforts across the country. As your subcommittee develops a Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 appropriations bill, we request that you include strong funding for Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) within the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). We appreciate that the FY 2023 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies bill recently passed by the U.S. House of Representatives includes more than \$883 million for CTA. CTA allows NRCS and local partners to help producers voluntarily implement effective conservation practices that bolster resilience, improve operations, and support a wide range of environmental benefits.

America's agricultural producers are among the best stewards of our nation's natural resources. Congress plays an important role in supporting and expanding producers' voluntary adoption of conservation practices by funding critical USDA conservation programs. These conservation programs – including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) – provide producers with resources to implement conservation practices to support their operations, protect surrounding ecosystems, and improve soil and water quality.

As Congress and USDA take steps to address environmental degradation and climate change, we strongly believe that producers must continue to play a key role. CTA is critical to the successful administration of several existing conservation programs and will undoubtedly be required to implement new policies that are currently being considered. Increasing the federal government's investment in CTA will allow NRCS to strengthen capacity at the local level, which is crucial to ensuring that producers can access local experts, develop conservation plans, and implement the most effective practices on their operations. CTA also bolsters the conservation assistance offered by NRCS and local partners by supporting staffing capacity.

We are excited to continue working with you to ensure that our agricultural producers are provided with the necessary resources and tools to be effective stewards of our nation's natural resources. Providing strong funding for NRCS' CTA is an important component to achieving this goal and addressing the significant environmental challenges facing our country and the world.

Sincerely,

National Association of Conservation Districts
American Soybean Association
Ducks Unlimited
Environmental Defense Fund
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Corn Growers Association
National Wildlife Federation
The Nature Conservancy
USA Rice Federation

July 27, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Leahy and Ranking Member Shelby:

Thank you for your leadership in supporting agricultural producers and important conservation efforts across the country. As your committee considers Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 appropriations bills, we request that you include strong funding for Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) within the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). We appreciate that the FY 2023 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies bill recently passed by the U.S. House of Representatives includes more than \$883 million for CTA. CTA allows NRCS and local partners to help producers voluntarily implement effective conservation practices that bolster resilience, improve operations, and support a wide range of environmental benefits.

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July 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations,
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 205

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger,

Thank you for your leadership in supporting agricultural producers and important conservation efforts across the country. We appreciate that the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies bill recently passed by your committee and the full U.S. House of Representatives includes more than \$883 million for Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA). CTA allows the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and local partners to help producers voluntarily implement effective conservation practices that bolster resilience, improve operations, and support a wide range of environmental benefits. As the U.S. House and Senate work to finalize FY 2023 appropriations bills, we urge you to continue to support strong funding for CTA.

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