



# National Association of Conservation Districts

January 4, 2024

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
Chairwoman  
Senate Committee on  
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boozman  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on  
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Glenn “GT” Thompson  
Chairman  
House Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Scott  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow, Chairman GT Thompson, Ranking Member John Boozman, and Ranking Member David Scott:

Thank you for your continued efforts to support our agricultural communities and locally led conservation across the country. We greatly appreciate your leadership in passing an extension of the 2018 Farm Bill, which provides certainty and support for our nation’s producers and land managers. We also want to thank you for working on a bipartisan basis and in collaboration with all stakeholders to develop a new farm bill.

As you are keenly aware, the conservation title of the farm bill provides financial and technical assistance to help producers and land stewards implement conservation practices that build soil health, improve water quality and quantity, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while also helping to ensure that operations are resilient and financially stable. As the agriculture committees continue working to write a new farm bill, we encourage you to integrate the remaining Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) conservation investments into the conservation title baseline.

The IRA conservation investments provided significant and much-needed funding for voluntary, locally led, and incentive-based Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) programs. Prior to these investments, NRCS programs – including EQIP, CSP, RCPP, and ACEP – were only able to accept approximately one-third of the producers who applied. With this new funding, NRCS is making substantial progress in reducing this backlog and empowering more producers to adopt effective conservation practices that improve environmental and economic outcomes in every part of the country. Implementation of the appropriate suite of conservation practices increases on-farm resilience, bolstering the availability and reliability of agricultural products sourced from American producers.

Now, Congress has a historic opportunity to increase the baseline level of funding for these critical NRCS programs over the long term by integrating IRA investments into the conservation title. While we understand that there are different views regarding how funding can be used



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within NRCS programs, we implore you to work together to find a solution that brings these investments into the conservation title. Accomplishing this would allow more producers and land stewards across the country to voluntarily implement proven conservation practices on their operations to improve the health of our lands, air, and waters for decades to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kim LaFleur".

Kim LaFleur  
NACD President