



National Association of Conservation Districts

December 02, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) represents America's 3,000 conservation districts, their state and territory associations, and the 17,000 locally elected men and women who serve on their governing boards. Conservation districts work with cooperating landowners and operators as well as local communities to help manage and protect land and water resources on private and public lands across the United States.

NACD urges Congress to work on a bipartisan basis to develop and pass disaster relief legislation this year that provides support to farmers, ranchers, and local communities affected by recent natural disasters.

Communities and producers across the Southeast have experienced devastating damage and losses caused by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. NACD appreciates that President Biden and lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have called on Congress to pass disaster relief legislation providing needed support for these communities. While it is critical to provide strong funding for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Disaster Relief Fund, Congress must also provide supplemental funding for additional federal programs that are vital to helping local communities and producers recover.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Emergency Watershed Protection Program, Emergency Conservation Program, Emergency Forest Restoration Program, Emergency Relief Program, and Emergency Livestock Relief Program provide needed resources and support to repair critical local infrastructure, address urgent natural resource concerns, and reimburse producers and communities for losses caused by disasters. Additional programs within the USDA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency also provide tailored support required to help local communities recover from severe damages.

Again, NACD urges Congress to work on a bipartisan basis to develop and pass disaster relief legislation this year supporting critical programs to help farmers, ranchers, private forest landowners, and local communities affected by recent natural disasters. Thank you for your attention to this request.



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Sincerely,

Kim LaFleur

Kim LaFleur
NACD President