

The Honorable John Hoeven
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture,
Rural Development, FDA, & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture,
Rural Development, FDA, & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Andy Harris
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture,
Rural Development, FDA, & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sanford Bishop Jr.
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture,
Rural Development, FDA, & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Hoeven, Chairman Harris, Ranking Member Shaheen and Ranking Member Bishop:

The undersigned organizations request that you provide \$1.2 billion for Conservation Operations within the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Fiscal Year 2026 (FY 2026). This funding is critical to the effective administration of USDA conservation programs and provides essential tools to help farmers, ranchers, and private landowners across the country voluntarily implement effective conservation practices.

Conservation Operations funding primarily supports Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA), which facilitates the administration of USDA conservation programs by supporting our conservation workforce, conservation planning, and the extension of specialized technical assistance to producers. Our country's conservation delivery system and producers across the country depend on the availability of on-the-ground technical assistance to implement effective conservation practices. Conservation Operations funding also supports NRCS soil surveys, snow surveys, water supply forecasting, and plant materials centers. These provide important information and tools to help producers monitor and manage their land more effectively.

We also request that FY 2026 appropriations legislation maintains full authorized funding for farm bill conservation programs. Voluntary, incentive-based, and locally led USDA conservation programs enjoy bipartisan support in Congress and are utilized by producers of all kinds across the United States to adopt conservation practices on their operations that enhance water quality, increase resilience, and reduce harmful emissions. Demand for these programs, including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), exceeds available dollars by a wide margin. It is critical that FY 2026 appropriations legislation maintains full authorized funding to help more producers voluntarily implement conservation on their lands.

As your subcommittee develops the FY 2026 appropriations bill, we urge you to provide \$1.2 billion in discretionary funding for NRCS Conservation Operations and to reject any changes in mandatory spending for farm bill conservation programs. We appreciate your attention to our request and look forward to working with you to support conservation and our nation's producers.

Sincerely,

National Association of Conservation Districts
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
American Bird Conservancy
American Farmland Trust
American Forest Foundation
American Rivers Action Fund
American Society of Agronomy
American Soybean Association
American Sustainable Business Network
Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy
Carbon180
Climate Land Leaders
Crop Science Society of America
Defenders of Wildlife
Ducks Unlimited
Earthjustice Action
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Farm Aid
International Certified Crop Advisers
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Izaak Walton League of America
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Center for Appropriate Technology
National Farmers Union
National Organic Coalition
National Wildlife Federation
National Young Farmers Coalition
Natural Resources Defense Council
Organic Farming Research Foundation
Pesticide Action and Agroecology Network
Pheasants Forever
Pollinator Partnership
Quail Forever
Regenerative Agriculture Coalition
Resource Renewal Institute
Rodale Institute
Soil and Water Conservation Society

Soil Science Society of America
The Conservation Fund
The Nature Conservancy
The Wetlands Initiative
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Union of Concerned Scientists
USA Rice
World Wildlife Fund
Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association
Alaska Food Policy Council
Appalachian Forest Restoration, LLC
Appalachian Sustainable Development
Bellair Farm
Botanical Bites & Provisions, LLC
California Certified Organic Farmers
California Climate and Agriculture Network
California FarmLink
Catholic Rural Life
Center For Rural Affairs
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Chicago Food Policy Action Council
Clean Wisconsin
Climate Land Leaders
C.A.S.A del Llano
Community Alliance with Family Farms
Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture
Crossroad Farm Organics
Cultivate KC
Dakota Rural Action
Dorey Park Farmers Market
Earley Farm
Ecological Farming Association
Florida Organic Growers
FoodCorps
Fox Haven Farm & Learning Center
Garden Variety Harvests LLC
Grassland Farm
GrassWorks
Grayson LandCare
Greasy Creek Farm
Green Lands Blue Waters
Hmong National Development, Inc.
Idyllwood Farms
Illinois Stewardship Alliance

Kansas Rural Center
Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture
Kinfolk Gardens
Land Stewardship Alliance
Louisiana Food Policy Council
Maine Farmland Trust
Marbleseed
Michael Fields Agricultural Institute
Michigan Food & Farming Systems
Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance
Missouri Coalition for the Environment
Montana Organic Association
Morven Kitchen Garden
Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society
Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance
Northeast Organic Farming Association of CT (CT NOFA)
Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT)
Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society
Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides
Nourish Colorado
Ohio Ecological Food & Farm Association
One Mississippi
Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network
Oregon Tilth
Organic Farming Research Foundation
Organic Seed Alliance
PASA Sustainable Agriculture
Pinnacle Prevention
Quapaw Canoe Company
RI Food Policy Council
Rude Becky Farm
Rural Advancement Foundation International
Savage Acres, LLC
Savanna Institute
Simple Hill Farm
Simple Roots Farm
Slow Food USA
Sprout
Stony Brook Farm
The Inspired Garden
The National Center for Frontier Communities
Virginia Association of Biological Farming
Wild Farm Alliance
Women, Food, and Agriculture Network
Yogaville Farm

