



National Association of Conservation Districts

October 06, 2009

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Obey
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
2112 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) represents the nation's 3,000 conservation districts and 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. Conservation districts help state and federal partners work with landowners on a variety of conservation programs.

As Congress confers the fiscal year 2010 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies appropriations, NACD would like to highlight our continued support of priority programs. Regarding the U.S. Forest Service State and Private Forestry Programs, NACD supports the House-passed level of \$307.486 million. This funding level will ensure that our forestlands continue providing a wide range of ecosystem services and products while also protecting the quality of the environment.

NACD also supports retaining section 431 of Senate engrossed HR 2996, establishing the FLAME fund and maintaining the intent of the language. The FLAME fund would help provide a more consistent source of funding for federal land management agencies in efforts to suppress wildfires. Moreover, the FLAME fund would provide stability to non-fire programs from which emergency wildfire funding has been transferred in recent years.

Finally, NACD supports the House-passed funding level of \$200.900 million for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 319 Nonpoint Source Grant Program. These grants provide much needed assistance at the local level in nonpoint source pollution mitigation efforts. States, territories and tribes receive grants which support a variety of water quality projects. Funding levels for this program have remained level in recent years, leaving many local nonpoint source pollution projects unfunded.

On behalf of the nation's conservation districts, thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Steve Robinson
President

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