



National Association of Conservation Districts

May 11, 2010

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Interior and Environment
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior and Environment
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman and Ranking Member:

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) represents 3,000 local conservation districts across the country and on the Pacific Islands. These districts are local units of government established under state law to carry out natural resource management programs at the local level and have 17,000 officials committed to conservation serving on their governing boards. Conservation districts work with private landowners to carry out conservation programs, including Clean Water Act programs administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

NACD is a strong supporter of the Clean Water Act and the importance of restoring and protecting the integrity of our nation's waters. Conservation districts across the country work with state and local governments, agricultural producers, developers, and homeowners to improve and protect water quality.

We support a continued commitment to funding the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund at a level that meets the resource needs of state and local governments. The State Revolving Loan Funds are essential to maintaining and improving a sustainable drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. Unfortunately, the President's request is \$200 million below the FY 2010 enacted level.

We are pleased that the President's budget includes funding for the Chesapeake Bay, Mississippi River Basin Initiative, and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). However, we are disappointed that the GLRI is \$175 million below the FY 2010 enacted level. Continued funding for these programs will help ensure the success of efforts to restore these vital watersheds of national importance.

Additionally, we remain supportive of EPA's categorical grants for clean water programs. Grant programs, such as the 319 Nonpoint Source Program, help to provide the necessary technical and financial assistance to landowners and land managers for continued water quality improvement, ensuring that local communities continue to realize the benefits of clean water. We support continued funding for incentive-based, voluntary implementation of best management practices through authorities like the 319 program.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you as we continue to provide the benefits of natural resource conservation across the country.

Sincerely,

Steve Robinson
NACD President

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