



1860 North 100 East
North Logan, UT 84341
435-753-6029
www.uacd.org

March 7, 2008

Senator Robert Bennett
125 S.State St.Room 4225
SLC, UT84138

Dear Senator Bennett,

The Utah Association of Conservation Districts (UACD) requests your support for conservation funding in the FY 2009 appropriations now being considered by the U.S. Congress. We represent Utah's 38 conservation districts that are working at the local level with state and federal partners to deliver federal conservation programs. Following are the programs important to Utah landowners/managers and citizens and the funding levels requested.

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) found under the USDA NRCS Conservation Operations account. CTA provides a funding base ensuring utilization of the best technical and scientific knowledge when working with Utah landowners to design and implement conservation plans. Funding for the CTA program remains critically low as demand for this planning across the country increases. Please support **\$888.890 million** in the FY 2009 Agriculture Appropriations Bill.

State and Private Forestry programs under the USDA Forest Service are necessary to the continued maintenance of healthy and productive forest lands. The demands on our state and private forest lands continue to increase. Please support **\$289.021 million** in the Fiscal Year 2009 Interior Appropriations Bill.

Clean Water Act Section 319, Nonpoint Source Grants Program administered by the EPA addresses water pollution from diffuse sources that impair water quality including nutrient runoff from agriculture, faulty septic systems from residential property, or urban runoff such as oil and toxic chemicals. Please support **\$210.536 million** in the FY 2009 Interior Appropriations Bill.

Also please find attached supporting information prepared by the National Association of Conservation Districts. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request. Please feel free to call if we can be of further assistance and support to you in obtaining federal funding for Utah and national conservation programs. I can be reached at 435-828-6656 or 435-789-2100 or contact Gordon Younker at the number shown on the letter head.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Rasmussen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Rasmussen
President

Enclosures
cc: Brad Shaffer
Bryan Thiriot
Tyler Owens