

April 2, 2007 Update

[Dear Colleague Letter with signatories as a PDF](#)

Dear Colleague letters are used to have Members of Congress indicate their support for an issue. Some Senators may have already communicated their support for RC&D by writing the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee. If they have not – ask if they plan to write an individual letter of support for RC&D or to sign on this letter.

[Dear Colleague Letter as a PDF](#)

[Attachment, Request to Ag. Appropriations PDF](#)

The Dear Colleague letter in support of RC&D funding on the House side will be extended for a few more days.

The following members have signed on to date: Collin Peterson (MN); Frank Lucas (OK); Tim Holden (PA); Jim Langevin (RI); Leonard Boswell (IA); Ed Whitfield (KY); Jim Saxton (NJ); Doris O. Matsui (CA); Shelley Moore Capito (WV); John M. McHugh (NY); Henry Cuellar (TX); Adrian Smith (NE); Phil English (PA); Mazie K. Hirono (HI); Michael Conaway (TX); John T. Salazar (CO); Mike McIntyre (NC); Wayne T. Gilchrest (MD); Jim Costa, (CA); Jeff Fortenberry (NE); Bart Gordon (TN); Wally Herger (CA); Steve Kagen (WI); Nick Rahall (WV); Barbara Cubin (WY); Bob Goodlatte (VA); Tammy Baldwin (WI); Michael Michaud (ME).

The Senate Dear Colleague will be circulated by Senators Robert Menendez (NJ) and Susan Collins (ME). It is not out to Senators yet but as soon we get it we will send you details.

Congress has a district work period March 30 to April 15. This would be a great time to schedule a meeting locally with your representatives and follow up on your requests.

You could use the meeting to educate Members of Congress and their staff on RC&D activities in their area, how RC&D operates, our partnership with NRCS and share our Farm bill and funding recommendations.

Farm bill

If you have not already done so, please send a letter to your member of congress on our Farm bill recommendations. Sample letters can be found on our website on <http://www.rednet.org/farmbill.php>

This past week President Ruggi was in DC and made a round of meetings regarding our Farm bill recommendations. House committee staff have asked us to be sure that all the Members of the Subcommittee have been briefed on RC&D prior to markup which could take place in early May. We are making the rounds here in DC but as you know, all

politics is local, so it is critically important that they here from constituents and know about RC&D activities at home.

House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Energy, and Research:
Chair Tim Holden (PA); Ranking Member Frank Lucas (OK); Stephanie Herseth (SD); Mike Rogers (AL); Henry Cuellar (TX); Jim Costa (CA); Brad Ellesworth (IN); Zachery Space (OH); Timothy Walz (MN); David Scott (GA); John Salazar (CO); Nancy Boyda (KS); Kirsten Gillibrand (NY); Dennis Cardoza (CA); Leonard Boswell (IA); Steve Kagan (WI); Steve King (IA); Jeff Fortenberry (NE); Jean Schmidt (OH); Tim Walberg (MI); Terry Everett (AL); Jerry Moran (KS); Robin Hayes (NC); Sam Graves (MO); Jo Bonner (AL); Marilyn Musgrave (CO).

New Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee: Sherrod Brown (OH); Amy Klobuchar (MN); Robert Casey Jr. (PA) John Thune (SD) and Lindsey Graham (SC).

NRCS updates-

In other activities, NARCDC continued its advocacy efforts for councils with officials in USDA and NRCS stressing the need for filling coordinator vacancies and training, and enhanced communications.

Our activities also included encouraging USDA to reconvene the USDA RC&D Policy Advisory Board. We have suggested that it be reconvened to discuss topical issues in which RC&D could assist other USDA mission areas, with renewable energy as a key issue to begin the dialogue.

The new NRCS RC&D manual will be out within the next 4-8 weeks. NRCS is reviewing public comments and making revisions.