

February 28, 2004

Re: Conservation Security Program Proposed Rule

Dear Secretary Veneman,

The proposed rule for the Conservation Security program falls far short of the program's potential and intent. I urge you to issue a revised rule that corrects these shortcomings, reflecting the new law restoring the CSP's entitlement funding status. Please issue this as soon as possible, to ensure that farmers can enroll in the program still this year.

These are some of my concerns:

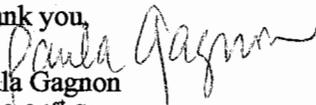
The rule should be modified by removing the restrictions limiting enrollment to certain watersheds, certain classes of farmers and ranchers, and to a limited set of resource concerns.

The rule should be modified to retain high environmental standards, but to allow farmers and ranchers to achieve those high standards while in the program, not before they enter the program.

The program should provide *meaningful* incentives and financial rewards for outstanding environmental effort and performance as envisioned by the law. Currently, the proposal demands that farm families cover the vast majority of costs of implementing and maintaining conservation systems out of their own pocket.

Enhanced payments should reward the most environmentally-beneficial systems and, to the maximum extent possible, pay for results. Enhanced payments for on-farm research and demonstration projects and for on-farm monitoring and evaluation activities should allow the producer to recover costs. A revised rule should also explicitly recognize resource-conserving crop rotations, rotational grazing and buffers as practices receiving substantial enhanced payments, as required by law.

I look forward to commenting on a revised proposed rule that describes a fair and workable program that works for family farmers and the environment.

Thank you,

Paula Gagnon
6923 31st Street
Berwyn, IL 60402

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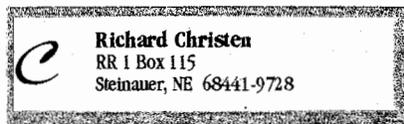
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Sincerely,



Steve Gagnon
6923 31st Street
Berwyn, IL 60402

" Attn CSP "



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February 28, 2004

David McKay, Conservation Operations NRC5
P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C. 20013-2890

Dear Mr. McKay:

I am writing in regards to the Conservation Security Program for 2004 and beyond.

The main purpose of this bill is for quality air, soil and water for this great nation of ours and generations to come.

This bill did and absolutely should include all farmers and ranchers. The grassland farmers and ranchers have limited resources and receive only minimal assistance.

I, with my wife, our son and wife and our daughters operate a cow-calf and backgrounding operation in Southeast Nebraska. We need to be constantly vigilant of ways and means to realize an adequate livelihood.

On this land we have and are installing a number of conservation practices that should benefit our bottom line, and the environment.

As a tier 3 participant, it would help us meet all these goals.

Congress seems to realize that our grass lands are being neglected. Therefore we need adequate funding and administration to correct a neglected environment.

We wish to provide clean water, healthy soils, improve wildlife habitat and other public benefits.

We need your help to revise the present rule and restore the CSP to the Congressional intent of an uncapped nationwide program.

R. D. Christen Sincerely,

February 25, 2004

Conservation Operations Division
Natural Resources Conservation Service
ATTN: Conservation Security Program
P.O. Box 2890
Washington, DC 20013-2890

To Whom it May Concern:

Thank you for providing public comment on the USDA's proposed rules for the Conservation Security Program. However, the proposed rules for the CSP needs to eliminate the restrictions on participation in the CSP to a few "selected watersheds" and undefined "categories."

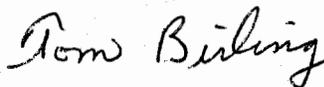
As a certified organic farmer, it is my view that the CSP should be a nationwide, accessible program, open to ALL farmers! CSP should allow farmers with USDA-approved organic certification plans under the National Organic Program to simultaneously certify under both the National Organic Program and CSP, if they meet the standards of both.

Also, the USDA's proposed rules fail to made adequate payments to farmers currently participating in effective conservation practices. It is my opinion that enhanced pay-ments and NOT cost-share payments, should reward those farmers who participate in environmentally-beneficial systems. CSP payments should be set at the local rental rates based on land capability without the 90 % reduction proposed by the USDA!

Finally, your proposed rules should address managed rotational grazing and resource conserving crop rotations. Please be reminded that managed rotational grazing is recog-nized by scientists and farmers as an excellent way to protect our soil and water. Also, it has been scientifically proven that diversified crop rotations effectively build and improve soil while managing pests and reducing erosion.

Again, thank you for allowing public comment on the proposed rules. With genuine concern, I ask that the CSP be offered to ALL of America's farmers, especially certified organic farmers, to preserve our nation's natural resources for future generations.

Sincerely,



Tom Birling
530 East Wisconsin
Seymour, WI 54165

February 25, 2004

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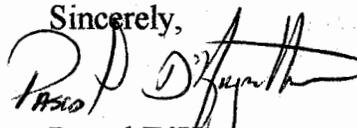
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Pascal D'Huyvetter
Route 1 Box 69
Fairchild, WI 54741

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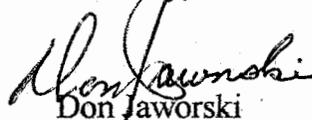
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Don Jaworski
4863 Meadow Drive
Green Bay, WI 54313