Date: February 2, 2009

Financial Assistance Programs Division
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources
1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 5237S
Washington, DC 20250-2890

Re: Comments on proposed NRCS regulation changes
Docket # NRCS-IFR-08005

To Whom It May Concern:

After thoroughly reviewing the proposed changes to the regulations, we wish to bring the following concerns to your attention;

1) Revise Section 1466.8, c, 2. iii; Revise paragraph iii: "....identified resource concern that is on private land; or" to state instead "....identified resource concern; or"

This is necessary, because the present wording in this proposed regulation will eliminate the average Western rancher/farmer from access to EQIP funding. This basically discriminates against them, because most Western states have a minority of private lands. Also each entity/operation is a single resource and should be treated as such regardless of land status.

Other members of the general public will be adversely affected by this regulation as stated, because of damaging wildlife habitat and diminishing recreational opportunities. Government and private studies will show that by eliminating public-land agricultural operations, wildlife abundance and diversity catastrophically declines.

2) Section 1466.24 in its entirety requires a clarification of the $450,000 limitation for the term of the 2002 Farm Bill and the $300,000 limit for the 2009 Farm Bill. Eliminate the rolling 6 year time span.

I appreciate your time in this matter.

Best Regards, John A Chiantaretto

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CC: AZ NRCS State Conservationists
AZ NRCS State Technical Committee
Congressman Trent Franks
Congressman Jeff Flake
Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack
Director Financial Assistance, Greg Johnson
Acting-Chief NRCS, Dr. David White