

Decker, Denise - Washington, DC

From: Ann Simon [asimon@mrcog-nm.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2009 12:41 PM
To: RA.dcwashing2.frpp
Subject: Farm and Ranchland Legislation

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To Whom It May Concern:

The Mid-Region Council of Governments facilitates an Agriculture Collaborative, made up of farmers, ranchers, value-added processors, elected officials, policy analysts, scientists and others working to support local food, and agriculture and protect agricultural land.

Several of our member governments have been interested in utilizing the Farm and Ranchland funds to help support local preservation efforts but have not been able to access the funds.

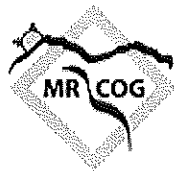
I highly support fully funding the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program. It does not put an onus on the federal government in terms of a property interest, but rather enables small communities to purchase easements with backing by the federal government to enforce the terms of an easement.

It has been an effective tool and I hope it continues to help support state and local farmland protection goals.

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