

**Decker, Denise - Washington, DC**

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**From:** Chip Berning [chipb@ioa.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2009 12:47 PM  
**To:** RA.dcwashing2.frpp  
**Subject:** Docket Number NRCS-IFR-08006.

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To whom it may concern:

I am concerned that farmers be protected!! Specifically, I feel that the USDA needs to address the following five issues:

- USDA should establish a meaningful certification process to reduce cumbersome and unneeded program requirements for experienced entities;
- While well-intentioned, the new forest management plan requirement is burdensome and should be eliminated or significantly revised;
- The rule should follow Congressional intent and give program partners the flexibility to design and implement their own impervious surfaces standards; and,
- The new national ranking criteria do not adequately recognize state and local farmland protection goals; entities that become certified should be allowed to use their own criteria for ranking farmland protection projects.
- Make it clear that the federal government is not purchasing a federal property interest, but rather the right to enforce the terms of an easement when and if necessary;

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Chip Berning

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