

**Decker, Denise - Washington, DC**

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**From:** KATE [kr209@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2009 1:07 PM  
**To:** RA.dcwashing2.frpp  
**Subject:** Docket Number NRCS-IFR-08006

256

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you today, as a concerned citizen in reference to Docket Number NRCS-IFR-08006. I believe the rule should be changed to reflect Congressional intent and to work more effectively for farmers and state and local program partners. The USDA must address the following five issues to improve the program's flexibility for state and local partners:

- 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;
- 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.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns during this public comment period.

Sincerely,  
Kate Richman  
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