

Decker, Denise - Washington, DC

From: Jason Bednarz [pumpsplus@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2009 1:43 PM
To: RA.dcwashing2.wrp
Subject: Wetlands Reserve Program

March 11th, 2009

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Attention Robin Heard,

I am writing regarding the Wetlands Reserve Program for the pot hole state of North Dakota. Current requirements regarding water depth is 6.5 foot or less at time of enrollment. I believe there should be no depth limitation based on the fact that it is much too difficult to determine elevation of depth due to the current situation of Devils Lake. It is also difficult for the USDA to determine depth, the best mapping system they currently use, occurs in 5 foot increments. This makes it too difficult to determine eligible acreage. Several landowners around the Devils Lake Basin have met and agree this is something to be considered. With a 30 year easement there are limitless opportunities for Wetlands Reserve Program, considering the past water patterns Devils Lake. Please consider our preference in replacing the current 6.5 feet requirement with no depth limitation. I would also like to express our position on the current allocation of enrollment funding. Currently, North Dakota's allocation could enroll approximately 22,000 acres. We feel we need to increase funding to enroll 50,000 acres based on a query of county NRCS offices. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. I believe these changes would benefit many of the Devils Lake Community members.

Sincerely,

Jason Bednarz, Devils Lake Basin Landowner
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