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Received

9/25/06

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**Glennon, Robert - Washington, DC**

**From:** Karen Bassler [karen@gatheringwaters.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2006 4:51 PM  
**To:** Glennon, Robert - Washington, DC  
**Cc:** Wacker, Carl - Madison, WI  
**Subject:** FRPP Interim Final Rule comments

Hello Mr Glennon:

Carl Wacker forwarded on your email reminder of the deadline for submitting comments on the Interim Final Rule for the FRPP. While Gathering Waters Conservancy has not and most likely will not make use of the FRPP, we do work with several land trusts in Wisconsin who have received funding via this program. Gathering Waters is the state technical service center for land trusts and private landowners. In that capacity, we provide training, consulting and advocacy for Wisconsin's land trusts, and pursue public outreach about the need for land conservation and the role of land trusts.

In reading the Interim Final Rule, I had only one comment, regarding the section on "Exercising the United States' Rights." The Interim Final Rule describes the process by which the NRCS would notify their partnering entity of an act of noncompliance which, if not cured, would result in the NRCS exercising its rights of enforcement or taking title to the conservation easement. However, there is no corresponding language of how the NRCS would inform the landowner of their intent to exercise any of their rights.

It seems appropriate to ensure the landowner is fully informed of the NRCS's intentions in regards to the easement. I would suggest that the NRCS add language describing how the landowner is to be notified that the NRCS intends to exercise any or all of its rights.

You can contact me if you have any questions about my comment. Thank you for providing the opportunity to review and comment on this invaluable program!

cheers,  
Karen

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"I'm really glad that your young people missed the Depression and missed the big war. But I do regret that they missed the leaders that I knew, leaders who told us when things were tough and that we'd have to sacrifice, and that these difficulties might last awhile. They brought us together and they gave us a sense of national purpose." - Ann Richards, Former Texas Governor (1933 - 2006)