



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE COALITION

110 Maryland Avenue N.E. Phone 202.547.5754
Washington, D.C. 20002 Fax 202.547.1837
www.msawg.org

Action Alert

Take Action!

Contact Your Congressional Representative now:

Urge the Representative to Support the Senate Position on the Conservation Security Program in FY04 Agricultural Appropriations

Background:

Before the August recess, the House of Representatives passed a Fiscal Year 2004 Agricultural Appropriations bill that *eliminates* funding for the landmark Conservation Security Program. The Senate Appropriations Committee approved a Senate bill that does not limit the funding for the Conservation Security Program. We need to get support in the House of Representatives for the Senate position on the Conservation Security Program.

Contact Your Representative:

You can contact your Representative's office by calling the U.S. Capitol switchboard at (202) 225-3121. To e-mail or fax your representative, go to the website www.visi.com/juan/congress/ and follow the directions for finding your representative's contact information.

Additional Talking Points:

If you have an opportunity to talk directly to your Representative or a legislative aide, here are some additional reasons for supporting the CSP:

- The CSP is the most promising farm bill conservation program to achieve significant environmental benefits. It provides support to farmers and ranchers who are already engaged in strong conservation systems to protect soil, water, air, and wildlife or who will adopt more sustainable systems as part of the program.
- The CSP supports all types of farms and ranches in all regions of the country and does not support environmentally destructive practices. Unique among all farm bill conservation programs, the CSP requires participants to actually solve resource problems to the non-degradation or sustainable use level.
- USDA is in the process of issuing a proposed rule for the CSP this summer, with the aim of program enrollment for farmers and ranchers by the end of the year. Full funding of the CSP in the FY04 Agricultural Appropriations will be a clear signal from Congress that USDA should implement a nationwide, comprehensive Conservation Security Program as quickly as possible.

The Message to Your Representative:

Ask your Representative to contact Representative Henry Bonilla (R-TX), chair of the House Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee, and Representative Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), ranking member of the Subcommittee, to urge them to support the Senate position of no limitation on the funding for the Conservation Security Program during the Conference Committee for the FY04 Agricultural Appropriations bill.