

National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils Frequently Asked Questions on the RC&D Budget Proposal

What was the funding level for RC&D in previous years?

FY 06 \$51.3 million

FY 05 \$51.2 million

President's proposal for FY07 \$26 million – This cut is achieved by eliminating approximately 225 coordinator positions (from 375) and asking the remaining 150 coordinators to serve multiple RC&D areas.

Is there a plan in place at NRCS for how this will be done? Not that NARC&DC is aware of.

Why do our letters need to go in by early March? Members of Congress must submit their requests for funding to the House and Senate Agriculture appropriations committee by March 17.

Can we use e-mail? This is not recommended. Members of Congress get hundreds of e-mails daily and their general in-boxes may not be checked for weeks at a time. The best approach is to fax your request if time is short.

Who are the Members of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittees?

Senate

Senator Robert Bennett (Chairman) (UT)

Senator Arlen Specter (PA)

Senator Christopher Bond (MO)

Senator Mitch McConnell (KY)

Senator Conrad Burns (MT)

Senator Larry Craig (ID)

Senator Sam Brownback (KS)

Senator Herb Kohl (Ranking Member) (WI)

Senator Tom Harkin (IA)

Senator Byron Dorgan (ND)

Senator Dianne Feinstein (CA)

Senator Richard Durbin (IL)

Senator Tim Johnson (SD)

Senator Mary Landrieu (LA)

House

Rep. Henry Bonilla (Chairman) (TX)

Jack Kingston (GA)

Tom Latham (IA)

Jo Ann Emerson (MO)

Virgil Goode (VA)

Ray LaHood (IL)

John Doolittle (CA)

Rodney Alexander (LA)

Rosa DeLauro (CT) (Ranking Member)

Maurice Hinchey (NY)

Sam Farr (CA)

Allen! Boyd (FL)

Marcy Kaptur (OH)

Should I write to the members of the key committees? Not unless you live in their district. Write to your member of congress or senator. If an out of district request comes in, Members of Congress will forward that request back to the appropriate district.

When will we know how we are doing? The subcommittees generally markup a bill in May and it gets considered on the house floor by mid-June.

What does the budget situation look like? Budgets will be tighter this year than last.

When can I meet with a Member of Congress while they are back home?

Congressional District Work Periods

February 20 - 24

March 20 - March 24

April 10 - April 23

May 29 - June 2

July 3 - July 7

House July 31 - September 1 Senate August 7 - September 4

Target adjournment date - October 6

Are there “Dear Colleague” letters circulating in Congress on RC&D funding? What is a Dear Colleague?

A Dear Colleague is a letter in support of a funding level or issue circulated by Members of Congress for their signature. Some Members of Congress will ask if there is a Dear Colleague on RC&D funding. We understand that one is under consideration and we will let you know as soon as it is sent out. Individual Member requests to the Ag Appropriations Subcommittee hold more weight than a Dear Colleague – if you can get your Member of Congress to send an individual request to the Chair and Ranking Member of the Ag. Appropriations subcommittee that is very helpful. If not, support in a Dear Colleague is fine.

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