



# **ACTION ALERT**

May 11, 2007

**HOUSE AGRICULTURE SUBCOMMITTEE TO VOTE ON  
FARM BILL CONSERVATION TITLE WEEK OF MAY 21**

**SETS THE STAGE FOR THE FATE OF THE  
CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM IN THE 2007 FARM BILL!!**

Phone calls or faxed letters are needed **immediately**, directed to members of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Rural Development, and Research (see list at end of this alert) and urging them to retain the Conservation Security Program as the centerpiece of the Conservation Title, restore past funding cuts to the program, and to oppose any amendments to further cut CSP funding in the 2007 Farm Bill. The CSP is an innovative program that helps sustainable and organic farmers, drives new conservation investments, and supports farmers for the environmental benefits they foster rather than the production of particular crops.

Members of the Subcommittee will be presented with a farm bill proposal, including conservation, from full Committee Chairman Collin Peterson (D-MN) on May 17 or 18, and will then meet the following week to consider amendments and ultimately to vote to approve a new conservation title. With no new funding being made available for the 2007 Farm Bill, at least not so far, we could quite possibly see proposals to add funds to other parts of the Conservation Title by cutting funding from CSP. We must not allow this to happen. The CSP has already been cut by \$4.3 billion in previous congressional action, and we need that funding restored, with no further cuts, if we are to make significant advances in supporting sustainable farmers and ranchers who are protecting and enhancing natural resources and the environment.

**PLEASE CALL OR FAX TODAY**

***The message is simple:*** I am a constituent (or resident of the state the Congressman/woman represents) and I am calling to ask Representative \_\_\_\_\_ to use his/her position on the House Agriculture Committee to:

1. Ensure that the Conservation Security Program remains a centerpiece of the Farm Bill Conservation Title.
2. Oppose any measures that would cut CSP funding.
3. Seek opportunities to restore the \$4.3 billion that has been cut from the program in the past.

*It's easy to call or write.* Please call your Representative's office (phone numbers below). Ask the receptionist to be connected with the staff person who covers agriculture. If the agriculture aid is unavailable, leave your name, phone number and the message above on the aid's voice mail or, if necessary, with the receptionist.

If you prefer to write, fax a brief letter with the same points above, along with your name, address, and contact information (fax numbers below).

**Background:**

The Conservation Security Program is an innovative and proactive stewardship incentives program first authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill. The CSP provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers who develop and maintain conservation systems that solve critical natural resource and environmental concerns, rewarding them for investments of labor, management, and capital aimed at fostering healthy, productive, and non-eroding soils, clear air and clean water, energy savings, and wildlife habitat.

Despite its wide popularity with farmers and ranchers, the intent and scope of CSP have been stunted by repeated cuts to its funding levels. The 2007 Farm Bill is the vehicle for improving the CSP, strengthening its environmental criteria, ensuring that it serves sustainable and organic farmers, and getting its funding back to a level where the program can be made available to farmers on a regular, nationwide basis. The first step in that process is making sure the House Subcommittee begins the process by endorsing the program and maintaining its current funding base. Hopefully as the farm bill process proceeds, new funding will be made available so that earlier cuts to the program can be fully restored.

**HOUSE AGRICULTURE SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
CONSERVATION, CREDIT, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND RESEARCH**

**Democrats**

<b>Member (State-Congressional District)</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Fax</b>
<b>Tim Holden – Chairman (PA-17)</b>	<b>202-225-5546</b>	<b>202-226-0996</b>
<b>Stephanie Herseth Sandlin, (SD - at large)</b>	<b>202-225-2801</b>	<b>202-225-5823</b>
<b>Henry Cuellar (TX-28)</b>	<b>202-225-1640</b>	<b>202-225-1641</b>
<b>Jim Costa (CA-20)</b>	<b>202-225-3341</b>	<b>202-225-9308</b>
<b>Brad Ellsworth (IN-8)</b>	<b>202-225-4636</b>	<b>202-225-3284</b>
<b>Zachary Space (OH-18)</b>	<b>202-225-6265</b>	<b>202-225-3394</b>
<b>Timothy Walz (MN-1)</b>	<b>202-225-2472</b>	<b>202-225-3433</b>
<b>David Scott (GA-13)</b>	<b>202-225-2939</b>	<b>202-225-4628</b>
<b>John Salazar (CO-3)</b>	<b>202-225-4761</b>	<b>202-226-9669</b>
<b>Nancy Boyda (KS-2)</b>	<b>202-225-6601</b>	<b>202-225-7986</b>
<b>Kirsten Gillibrand (NY-20)</b>	<b>202-225-5614</b>	<b>202-225-1168</b>
<b>Dennis Cardoza (CA-18)</b>	<b>202-225-6131</b>	<b>202-225-0819</b>
<b>Steve Kagen (WI-8)</b>	<b>202-225-5665</b>	<b>202-225-5729</b>
<b>Joe Donnelly (IN-2)</b>	<b>202-225-3915</b>	<b>202-225-6798</b>

**Republicans**

<b>Member (State-Congressional District)</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Fax</b>
<b>Frank Lucas - Ranking Member (OK-3)</b>	<b>202-225-5565</b>	<b>202-225-8698</b>
<b>Mike Rogers (AL-3)</b>	<b>202-225-3261</b>	<b>202-226-8485</b>
<b>Steve King (IA-5)</b>	<b>202-225-4426</b>	<b>202-225-3193</b>
<b>Jeff Fortenberry (NE-1)</b>	<b>202-225-4806</b>	<b>202-225-5686</b>
<b>Jean Schmidt (OH-2)</b>	<b>202-225-3164</b>	<b>202-225-1992</b>
<b>Timothy Walberg (MI-7)</b>	<b>202-225-6276</b>	<b>202-225-6281</b>
<b>Terry Everett (AL-2)</b>	<b>202-225-2901</b>	<b>202-225-8913</b>
<b>Jerry Moran (KS-1)</b>	<b>202-225-2715</b>	<b>202-225-5124</b>
<b>Robin Hayes (NC-8)</b>	<b>202-225-3715</b>	<b>202-225-4036</b>
<b>Sam Graves (MO-6)</b>	<b>202-225-7041</b>	<b>202-225-8221</b>
<b>Jo Bonner (AL-1)</b>	<b>202-225-4931</b>	<b>202-225-0562</b>
<b>Marilyn Musgrave (CO-4)</b>	<b>202-225-4676</b>	<b>202-225-5870</b>