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Subject: Farm bill comments
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To whom it may concern,

One of the major events in the 1930's that helped bring about the farm bill was the dust bowl era and in turn the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the United States. As a result large amounts of soils and areas of land have been maintained for traditional Agricultural, predominantly agronomic use. Since that time many changes have occurred some of which have been addressed. Fields are no longer worked with teams of horses or even "Johnny poppers", the majority of the population no longer resides in rural areas, the family farm is now owned by a corporations, farm fields now sprout housing developments. Soil, however, still remains facing many of the problems of erosion, misuse, and misunderstanding by the owners as was the case in the 1930s.

The 2007 farm bill needs to have provisions directly dealing with and providing funding for lands, soils, in developed, also called "urban" areas. In my district we have no meaningful USDA presence through NRCS because of a non-agronomic base thus no "numbers" can be generated to support their activities. We have soils; we have erosion and sediment control problems among others that need addressing. Our Agricultural base is not agronomic but horticultural, still agricultural in nature. The science and utilization of soils has been developed predominantly through agriculture, its use, conservation and education concerning it should remain there.

The need for developed land, "urban", programs and funding is a pressing and growing problem through out the country not just my district. I suggest you expand and increase funding of CTA to provide greater general use and add to the bill a provision, with adequate funding, specifically for local conservation districts to investigate, evaluate, and deal with local issues. We need progressive forward thinking people to address this issue now in order to have a meaningful addition to the next farm bill.

Donald Lloyd,

Chairman, Great Lakes Committee, urban subcommittee,

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