

From: "rcooper@wfubmc.edu%inter2" <rcooper@wfubmc.edu>
Subject: Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - 12/22/2005 11:34 AM CST
Date Sent: 12/22/2005 11:34:44 CST
Date Received: 12/22/2005 11:36:13 CST

Email: rcooper@wfubmc.edu

FirstName: M. Robert

LastName: Cooper

Address1: 3113 Fraternity Church Road

Address2:

City: Winston-Salem

State: North Carolina

zipcode: 27127

Question1:

Question2:

Question3:

Question4: I own 165 acres of forestland in Forsyth County, NC. I am trying to protect my forestland from urban encroachment and excessive taxation. We need Congress's help in providing us with more funding and technical assistance; provision to give us the resources we need to resist selling our land. Currently, less than 1% of Farm Bill programs are directed to us as private forest landowners. The 2007 Farm Bill reauthorization provides a chance to improve this number. I can tell you from personal experience with the conservation program in NC that the Forestland Enhancement Program (FLEP) authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill has not only been under funded, but has been a failure in our state. The other major program of the Farm Bill, which could have provided assistance to forest owners, was the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQUIP). Currently, less than 1% of the Farm Bill programs are directed to us as private forest landowners and in many instances the EQUIP program specifically eliminates forest landowners from participation. It is my belief that the Farm Bill provides adequate funding for traditional agricultural interests, but is maldistributed and prevents forestland owners from participation. Forestry needs to become a higher priority in the 2007 Farm Bill. I am not requesting additional funds but a more equitable distribution of those that are available. In the 2007 Farm Bill, we need to see more priority given to forestry programs. We've been left out of past farm bills and we need support to be able to keep our land in the family and continue the good work that we are doing on our land.

Question5:

Question6: