



NORTH DAKOTA STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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Chairman Monson and members of the SB 2020 Conference Committee,

Thank you, Chairman Monson, for your request for information regarding the State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC) Budget. Currently SB2020 allocates \$1,091,520 to the SSCC for the upcoming biennium, which reflects a 10% cut taken in the 2017 session. A restoration of that cut would place the SSCC budget at \$1,212,800.

The funds allocated to the SSCC are distributed directly to SCDs across the state. Districts use these funds to provide technical assistance and conservation planning support to residents, creating a direct, voluntary, locally-led conservation impact in every corner of the state.

Thanks to the District Activity Reporting Tool (DART), recently built to advance district accountability, I am able to report that in 2020 SCDs in North Dakota:

- Presented conservation and ag literacy educational programs to more than 9,600 K-12 students and 900 college students
- Seeded more than 7,300 acres of cover crops and nearly 4,000 acres of grasslands for soil health, livestock forage and wildlife habitat
- Planted more than 700 miles of erosion-reducing windbreaks, including more than 32,000 hand-planted trees
- Provided conservation-based workshops, programs and field days to more than 4,000 attendees
- Tested more than 1,400 water samples to ensure the safety of people and livestock
- Planned and installed more than 25 miles of water pipeline to improve livestock distribution and increase ranch profitability
- Conducted more than 900 hours of soil testing and nearly 800 hours of soil mapping for ag producers

These activities were completed despite the logistical and budgetary constraints that we all faced in 2020, and are just a few of the many important things SCDs do for our state. Your support for the restoration of the SSCC budget will allow SCDs to expand these programs and continue to preserve our most valuable natural resources, our soil and water.

Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions,

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