

From: Dan Wogsland <danw@ndgga.com>
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2014 3:31 PM
To: AGSEC - OES; Weller, Jason - NRCS, Washington, DC; Podoll, Mary - NRCS, Bismarck, ND; Hernandez, Juan - NRCS, Bangor, ME; Brown, David - NRCS, Washington, DC; Bonnie, Robert - OSEC; Bonnie, Robert - OSEC
Cc: Bob Wisness (robertwisness@gmail.com); Mark Formo ([REDACTED]); Kyle Richardson; Coleman@ndpci.com; Sheri Coleman (scoleman@ndpci.com); tom@ndcorn.org; nancy.johnson@ndsoygrowers.com; Dwight Wrangham; Pete Hanebutt - NDFB (pete@ndfb.org); Kayla Pulvermacher; Jameson, Tyler (Heitkamp); daryl.lies@mail.house.gov; Tom Brusegaard (tom_brusegaard@hoeven.senate.gov); Bladow, Cassie (Hoeven)
Subject: ADDITIONAL letter from North Dakota Farm Organization
Attachments: North Dakota Farm Organization letter (2).pdf

Good afternoon!

Please note the addition of the U.S. Durum Growers Association to the North Dakota Farm Organization letter to Secretary Vilsack.

My apologies for the confusion!

Many thanks!

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Honorable Thomas Vilsack
United States Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

We, the undersigned organizations, write to ask you to rescind the current contribution agreement between the North Dakota Natural Resources Conservation Service (N.D. NRCS) and Ducks Unlimited (DU). While our organizations respect Ducks Unlimited's activism on behalf of waterfowl in North Dakota, we do not appreciate that they are an out-of-state political organization working against North Dakota's farmers when it comes to land usage and its stewardship. Instead of entrusting stewardship of the land to the farmer, Ducks Unlimited has attempted to position itself as a better steward of the land, and therefore, as the organization that has the final say on what can be done with private land.

To now allow the federal government to use these employees as their "boots on the ground" in the state of North Dakota is unfair to every farmer, and the entire agricultural industry, in our state. The farmers in North Dakota have proven outstanding stewards of the state's land for the last 150 years, and because of their conservation efforts (not DU's) we still have some of the best growing conditions in the world while our waterfowl population continues to rise to record levels.

The current contribution agreement between North Dakota NRCS and Ducks Unlimited presents a direct conflict of interest that has the potential for abuse. Giving an out-of-state political organization with an agenda unlimited access to farmer and landowner information is not in the best interest of North Dakota farmers and landowners; similarly giving this out-of-state political organization unlimited access to farmers and landowners presents a recipe for disaster. Farmers and landowners need and deserve unbiased information from personnel hired and trained by North Dakota NRCS and not from individuals who serve an out-of-state political organization.

Therefore we respectfully request that you immediately rescind the current contribution agreement between North Dakota NRCS and Ducks Unlimited. This agreement is NOT in the best interest of North Dakota farmers and landowners and is in direct conflict with the NRCS mission statement of "helping people help the land."

Sincerely,

North Dakota Grain Growers Association
AmeriFlax
Landowners Association of North Dakota
North Dakota Corn Growers Association
North Dakota Farm Bureau
North Dakota Farmers Union
North Dakota Soybean Growers Association
Northern Canola Growers Association
U.S. Durum Growers Association