

LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS

*Determine whether your district or area hosts a legislative meeting, some districts meet each year, some districts meet only in election years and some do not conduct legislative meetings.

- Determine the preferred mode of communication for your legislators, mail, personal contact, phone calls or via personal email (*note-phone calls and emails CANNOT originate from government owned phones or computers)
- Determine your guest list, typically including partner agencies, local and state govt. offices and commissioners as well as your area legislators
- Prepare your letter of invitation, they should be simple and to the point, noting areas of concern or specific topics (see sample)
- Request RSVP's and conduct follow-ups for attendance
- It is nice to have a moderator to keep the meeting flowing smoothly, allowing for equal time for speakers and keeping order with questions from the floor
- Provide a district activity report for guests (like those prepared for area meetings, your opportunity to brag!)
- Keep the venue relaxed yet professional
- Allow for feedback either via short survey or provide contact information

{District Letter Head}

Date

Joe Smith
123 Main St.
Deadwood SD 57732

Dear Commissioner Smith:

The Hills Area Conservation Districts will host their annual Legislative Meeting on {date} at {time} at {place and city}. We cordially invite you to join us at this informative meeting. Coffee and rolls {or meal options} will be available at {time}.

State and national legislators, county commissioners, candidates for office, conservation district supervisors and employees, and representatives of local and state governments have been invited. Representatives from the South Dakota Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry and the USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service may also be in attendance. Many issues dealing with conservation as well as other issues affecting local, county and state governments will be discussed.

This is an excellent opportunity to visit with each other in an informal setting. We hope that you will plan to join us. Please RSVP by to {email and/or phone number} by {date}. If you have questions, call the {your district name} office at {phone number}, {office hours}.

Sincerely,

Your name
Title

HILLS AREA CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Butte, Custer, East Pennington, Elk Creek, Fall River, Lawrence, and Pennington



MINER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

601 West Farmer Avenue, Suite A

Howard, South Dakota 57349

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Tami Moore, District Manager		tami.moore@sd.nacdnet.net
Dale Shumaker, Chairman Tim Clarke, Treasurer	Marvin Kizer, Supervisor	Donald Threadgold, Vice Chairman Julie Calmus, Supervisor

Senator John Thune
5015 South Bur Oak
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57108

RE: FY 18 Budget – Proposed Plans to Reorganize USDA

Senator Thune,

We have been made aware of the release of President Trump’s FY 18 budget request and proposed plans to reorganize USDA. In addition to cutting many of the USDA’s voluntary conservation programs and eliminating others, the President’s budget takes aim at the Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) program, by proposing a cut to CTA by \$91 million. We believe the CTA program is the lifeblood of conservation in the United States.

We, as a Conservation District, are very concerned with the cutting of CTA funding – as we feel this would severely limit our collective ability to address resource concerns and put conservation practices on the ground. Combined with a reorganization of USDA agencies, this would be very detrimental for locally-led conservation.

We feel it is important that you not only are aware of the need to advocate for conservation, but that you are also aware of how important funding for CTA is. At a time when demands on our natural resources are increasing, we need more funding for sound conservation planning and technical assistance, not less.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our thoughts on the budget cut to
CONSERVATION!

Sincerely,

Tami Moore, District Manager of the Miner Conservation District

