



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

JAN 16 2014

Mr. William L. Vodehnal
President
Central Mountains and Plains Section
The Wildlife Society
Bassett, Nebraska 68714

Dear Mr. Vodehnal:

Thank you for your letter of June 1, 2013, which was received on October 28, 2013, on behalf of the Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society, expressing support to continue the number of acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program and for a conservation compliance requirement for crop insurance in the new Farm Bill. I apologize for the delayed response.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Obama Administration continue to stress the importance of Congress passing a new, comprehensive, long-term Food, Farm and Jobs Bill as soon as possible. It is hoped that a new Food, Farm and Jobs Bill would include a strong and meaningful conservation program that allows farmers, landowners, and forest owners to build on their record conservation efforts underway today.

You can count on USDA's continued commitment to new and existing conservation opportunities that protect rural soil and water for future generations.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas J. Vilsack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thomas" and last name "Vilsack" clearly legible.

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary