

April 24, 2012

Dear Senator,

The undersigned sportsmen-conservation and scientific organizations would like to encourage your support of the Sodsaver amendment being offered by Senator Thune at tomorrow's Senate Agriculture Committee markup of the 2012 Farm Bill.

We acknowledge and appreciate that the Farm Bill mark currently under consideration by the Agriculture Committee does much to improve Conservation Title program efficiency and user-friendliness. However, we believe that the overall bill will be made stronger still with the adoption of the Thune Sodsaver Amendment.

Sodsaver presents Congress with a rare opportunity to save taxpayer money by limiting the federal incentive for converting native grasslands to crop production. Our grasslands are incredibly productive from a fish and wildlife standpoint, and a sensible Sodsaver provision will help to ensure that grassland ecosystems remain intact and functional.

Sodsaver is neither a regulation nor an infringement on property rights. It is simply a way of ensuring that taxpayer funds will not be used to promote the loss of valuable grasslands. Farmers will maintain the ability to manage their lands however they see fit.

Thank you for your continued efforts to pass a Farm Bill that maintains a robust legacy of private lands conservation. We hope that you will consider supporting the Thune Sodsaver amendment.

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
BASS, L.L.C.  
Delta Waterfowl  
Ducks Unlimited  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Pheasants Forever  
Quail Forever

Quail Unlimited  
The Nature Conservancy  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation  
Partnership  
The Wildlife Society  
Trout Unlimited  
Wildlife Management Institute