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CONGRESSIONAL RURAL CAUCUS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1202

June 9, 1995

Ernest Ables
Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society
c/o Fish and Wildlife Dept
University of Idaho
Moscow, ID 83844

Dear Ernest:

Thank you for contacting my office concerning the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

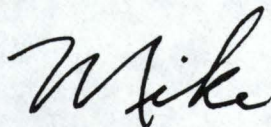
The CRP, authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985, was established as a voluntary program to help farmers prevent or control soil erosion on highly erodible and environmentally sensitive farmland.

The Agricultural Appropriations Committee provided an appropriation of \$1.7 billion, an increase of \$164 million above the amount available for fiscal year 1994. However, difficult financial constraints have forced the committee to defer any additional sign-ups for the CRP for fiscal year 1994.

The CRP has been successful in meeting its dual purpose of conserving our valuable top soil and reducing production of grains that were, at that time, being held in surplus by the government. Many farm families benefited greatly from this program, however it has proven to be an expensive way to reduce erosion and control production. Congress will soon be reviewing the base legislation authorizing the CRP. I will be an active participant in this review and will keep your comments in support of extending the CRP in mind.

Your recommendations will be of great use to my office. Be assured that I will keep them in mind as the Agriculture Committee begins deliberations on the 1995 Farm Bill. Thank you again for contacting me.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Crapo
Member of Congress

MDC/wph

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