

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1204

June 12, 1995

Mr. Ernest D. Ables
President
Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society
C/O Fish and Wildlife Dept.
University of Idaho
Moscow, ID 83844

Dear Ernest:

Thank you for contacting me concerning the extension of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

I appreciate your concern about the future of the program. The CRP has enjoyed widespread support since its creation in the 1985 Farm Bill and currently enrolls 35 million acres of highly erodible soil. As a resource management tool, it is popular with both the agricultural industry and environmental groups. Current estimates predict a total of 37 million acres will be enrolled by the end of fiscal 1996.

I understand the economic and environmental benefits of the CRP. While there is a great deal of general support for the program, the CRP, like all agriculture programs, will come under close scrutiny as this Congress attempts to cut, revise and reform federal programs to help balance the budget.

When this program comes up for reconsideration as part of the 1995 Farm Bill, I will keep your thoughts in mind.

Sincerely,



DIRK KEMPTHORNE
United States Senator

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