The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

Address

Date

Dear Representative/Senator\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you during Conservation District Week. Your continual positive support of Conservation District budgetary line items and the subsequent project funds not only add up to significant quantifiable environmental benefits for all Pennsylvania citizens, but also interject capital into the private sector that because of the multiplier effect become major local economic drivers. As you know we are asking the PA General Assembly to keep level funding in the “Transfer to the Conservation District Fund” lines in both the PDA and DEP to maintain current programs and services for local communities. Even though these lines have not been increased since the 2004-2005 fiscal year, given the economic downturn caused by COVID-19, we believe it would be irresponsible for conservation districts to be requesting a budget increase at this time.

Conservation districts have enjoyed partnering with state agencies in the past and are looking forward to working with them efficiently and cost-effectively in the future. By maintaining the “Transfer to the Conservation District” lines in the PDA and DEP budget, districts will be able to continue providing the Commonwealth with the services Pennsylvania citizens have enjoyed and grown accustomed to receiving.

We also had the opportunity to discuss our opposition to HB 509, which allows for third party permit reviews because we are concerned that allowing for these private reviews will hinder the permit review process and result in permit approval delays with the potential for approved permits not meeting state standards. Finally, we asked you to support an amendment to SB 891 allowing conservation districts who already have an established expedited permit program for erosion and Sedimentation NPDES permits to continue with their current process.

Additionally, we were able to discuss local natural resource concerns. In our county are working on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This project provides \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Thank you again for your continued support of our conservation district.

Sincerely,