(LETTERHEAD)

May 3, 2020

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ PA State Representative or Senator

Address/email address

Dear Representative/Senator

We are pleased to announce that the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) is celebrating “Conservation District Week” from May 3-9, 2020 to coincide with Earth Day (April 22nd) events and celebrations. In light of this designation we are highlighting the Pennsylvania General Assembly’s consistent support of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County Conservation District. The District would like to share several recent projects that would not have been possible without State funding and your support of our environmental stewardship efforts:

Completed 2019 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County Projects/staffing using State funds:

These projects only represent a portion of our positive environmental impact because of state funds and initiatives. We also use these funds and staff positions to leverage and implement many more programs/practices to help us meet state and Federal goals and mandates. We want to thank you for voting in favor of environmental protection programs and funding.

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. **To ensure that conservation districts can accommodate agency and community needs, the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) is respectfully requesting the Commonwealth’s 2020-2021 budget 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.

Thanks again for all that you do for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County and all of Pennsylvania.

 Sincerely,

 Chairman