(LETTERHEAD)

April \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

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 April 10-16, 2022. 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 2021 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County Conservation District projects/staffing using state funds:

These projects only represent a small 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 inject 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, and maintain current programs and services for local communities, the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) is respectfully requesting the Commonwealth’s 2022-2023 budget increase funding in the “Transfer to the Conservation District Fund” lines in both the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) budgets to maintain current programs and services for local communities. We are hopeful that the PA General Assembly will increase the PDA line to $1.738 million and the DEP line to $5.010 million. These lines have not been increased since the 2004-2005 fiscal year and, consequently, no longer cover the costs of the program administered by our conservation district.**

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 increasing the “Transfer to the Conservation District” lines in the PDA and DEP budgets, 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