

RESOLUTION

No. 2003-5

Of the

ARKANSAS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

A RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, MARK REY, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE NRCS BE EXEMPT FROM THE OUTSOURCING REQUIREMENT AND THAT NO FIELD OFFICE CLOSE WITHOUT THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE STATE AND CONSERVATION DISTRICTS.

WHEREAS, there is a possibility that Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) may potentially close eight Arkansas offices; and

WHEREAS, since those field offices play such an important role and are of such great benefit to the citizens of Arkansas, the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission (Commission) believes that no field office should be closed without the involvement of the Commission and Conservation Districts in the process;

WHEREAS, outsourcing of technical services and the USDA/NRCS field office consolidation could negatively impact the delivery of conservation practices;

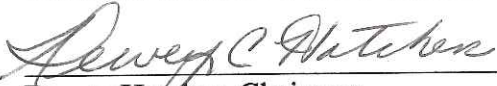
WHEREAS, the Commission urges that the Conservation Partnership between NRCS, the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission, and the Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts be recognized for its importance to the development and delivery of federal conservation programs;

WHEREAS, the Commission urges the Under Secretary of Agriculture to allow the Commission and Conservation Districts a significant role in the decision processes affecting both NRCS and the Conservation Districts;


NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED IN UANANIMOUS ACCORD BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION assembled in Little Rock, July 16, 2003, that the Commission recommends and urges that the NRCS be exempted from outsourcing and that no field office be closed without considering input from the Arkansas Conservation Partners.

Adopted this 16th day of July, 2003.

ARKANSAS SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION


Dewey Hatcher, Chairman

ATTEST:


J. Randy Young, P.E.