



## Michigan Association of Conservation Districts

### Legislative Advocacy Instructions re: Funding Appropriations for Fiscal Year '22

*Thank you for your willingness to contact your State Representative(s) regarding our appropriations request for Fiscal Year '22. MACD knows from experience that the voice of a legislator's constituent is far more impactful than a statewide association's voice. Your voice will help convince your legislators that funding Michigan's Conservation Districts is a critical need for your community, and thus their constituency. Feel free to add any comments you feel will add to your advocacy, but sending the form letters or leaving voicemails are sufficient. If you have any questions before contacting your legislator, please reach out to MACD Executive Director Dan Moilanen at [Dan.Moilanen@macd.org](mailto:Dan.Moilanen@macd.org) or by calling 517-324-5274.*

To find your Representative, visit: <https://www.house.mi.gov/MHRPublic/frmFindARep.aspx>

The following Representatives Serve on the House Appropriations Committee, if any of them are your representative(s), please use the "**Appropriations Member Scripts/Form E-Mail**", otherwise use the "**General Member Scripts**":

- Rep. Thomas Albert  
(Chair of House Appropriations Committee)
  - Rep. Sue Allor  
(Chair of House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Natural Resources)
  - Rep. Timothy Beson  
(Maj. Vice Chair of House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Natural Resources)
  - Rep. Ken Borton
  - Rep. Matt Maddock
  - Rep. Jeff Yaroch
  - Rep. Mary Whiteford
  - Rep. Scott VanSingel
  - Rep. Bradley Slagh
  - Rep. Greg VanWoerkom
  - Rep. Tommy Brann
  - Rep. Ann Bollin
  - Rep. Annette Glenn
  - Rep. Mark Huizenga
  - Rep. Sarah Lightner
  - Rep. Andrew Fink
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## Michigan Association of Conservation Districts

### Legislative Advocacy Instructions re: Funding Appropriations for Fiscal Year '22

#### **Telephone Call Script for House Appropriations Members:**

\*\*If you call during normal business hours T-Th, you will reach a legislative staffer, otherwise, you'll likely reach a voicemail, feel free to leave a message.

Hello, my name is [redacted], I'm a resident of [redacted] County and your constituent. I'm calling to express my disappointment that the House Appropriations Committee did not approve funding for Conservation Districts in the MDARD budget for Fiscal Year '22. I encourage you and your colleagues to reconsider funding for Michigan's Conservation Districts when the final budget is considered in the coming weeks before the Committee of the Whole.

The [redacted] Conservation District, a local unit of government, is a vital asset here in [redacted] County. The District provides technical services to help landowners protect and enhance our soil, water, plant and habitat resources on working lands.

Michigan's Conservation Districts have not received state funding since 2009. The result is a diminished operating capacity for several stand alone districts, and thus reduced access to their services, which hurts local farmers and landowners the most.

I encourage you to reconsider this decision and support the request for \$3.0 million in the MDARD FY22 budget. This would be a substantial investment in our local economy, as our local Conservation District administers USDA Farm Bill programs, which 100% of those dollars go to local farmers here in [redacted] County.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I can be reached at [Your Phone Number, if you wish to leave it]. Have a nice day.

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## Michigan Association of Conservation Districts

### Legislative Advocacy Instructions re: Funding Appropriations for Fiscal Year '22

#### **Telephone Call Script for General House Members:**

\*\*If you call during normal business hours T-Th, you will reach a legislative staffer, otherwise, you'll likely reach a voicemail, feel free to leave a message.

Hello, my name is [redacted], I'm a resident of [redacted] County and your constituent. I'm calling to express my disappointment that the House Appropriations Committee did not approve funding for Conservation Districts in the MDARD budget for Fiscal Year '22. I encourage you and your colleagues to reconsider funding for Michigan's Conservation Districts when the final budget is considered in the coming weeks before the Committee of the Whole.

The [redacted] Conservation District, a local unit of government, is a vital asset here in [redacted] County. The District provides technical services to help landowners protect and enhance our soil, water, plant and habitat resources on working lands.

Michigan's Conservation Districts have not received state funding since 2009. The result is a diminished operating capacity for several stand alone districts, and thus reduced access to their services, which hurts local farmers and landowners the most.

I encourage you to work with your colleagues on the House Appropriations Committee to reverse this decision and support the request for \$3.0 million in the MDARD FY22 budget. This would be a substantial investment in our local economy, as our local Conservation District administers USDA Farm Bill programs, which 100% of those dollars go to local farmers here in [redacted] County.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I can be reached at [Your Phone Number, if you wish to leave it]. Have a nice day.

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## Michigan Association of Conservation Districts

### Legislative Advocacy Instructions re: Funding Appropriations for Fiscal Year '22

#### **Email Script to House Appropriations Members:**

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_, I live in [City/Township], which is covered by \_\_\_\_\_ Conservation District. I am writing to you today to express my disappointment that funding for all 75 of Michigan's Conservation Districts was omitted from the FY '22 MDARD budget. I encourage you and your colleagues to reconsider funding for Michigan's Conservation Districts when the final budget is considered in the coming weeks before the Committee of the Whole.

\_\_\_\_\_ Conservation District provides a critical service to our community in the form of technical assistance to farmers and landowners, such as [Provide example of well known farm/clients in the area if known] which is a thriving farm in your district. In addition, our Conservation District engages in a variety of other programs that help our protect our local environment, such as [List examples of programs your CD offers, i.e. MAEAP, CISMA, FAP, Conservation Technical Assistance (CTAI) etc]. For 12 years, since the Michigan Legislature decided to end all state-level funding of Conservation Districts, we've watched our local district's operational capacity dwindle.

Appropriating \$3 million for all 75 of Michigan's Conservation Districts is an investment in Michigan's farming community that will have a direct return to our local economy. Since our local Conservation District administers Farm Bill dollars through the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the more financially stable our local district is, the more time and resources can be spent on processing these types of applications. 100% of Farm Bill dollars go to local farmers right here in \_\_\_\_\_ County, which provide a substantial form of financial support for struggling independent farmers in a time of global unrest.

I urge you to reverse course and immediately appropriate the requested \$3 million, as it will have a tremendous, positive impact on \_\_\_\_\_ Conservation District's long-term operational capacity and ability to serve the needs of your constituents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
[Your name]



## Michigan Association of Conservation Districts

### Legislative Advocacy Instructions re: Funding Appropriations for Fiscal Year '22

#### **Email Script to General House Members:**

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_, I live in [City/Township], which is covered by \_\_\_\_\_ Conservation District. I am writing to you today to express my disappointment that funding for all 75 of Michigan's Conservation Districts was omitted from the FY '22 MDARD budget. \_\_\_\_\_ Conservation District provides a critical service to our community in the form of technical assistance to farmers and landowners, such as [Provide example of well known farm/clients in the area if known] which is a thriving farm in your district. In addition, our Conservation District engages in a variety of other programs that help our protect our local environment, such as [List examples of programs your CD offers, i.e. MAEAP, CISMA, FAP, Conservation Technical Assistance (CTAI) etc.]. For 12 years, since the Michigan Legislature decided to end all state-level funding of Conservation Districts, we've watched our local district's operational capacity dwindle.

Appropriating \$3 million for all 75 of Michigan's Conservation Districts is an investment in Michigan's farming community that will have a direct return to our local economy. Since our local Conservation District administers Farm Bill dollars through the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the more financially stable our local district is, the more time and resources can be spent on processing these types of applications. 100% of Farm Bill dollars go to local farmers right here in \_\_\_\_\_ County, which provide a substantial form of financial support for struggling independent farmers in a time of global unrest.

I urge you to work with your colleagues on the House Appropriations Committee to reverse course and appropriate the requested \$3 million when the Committee of the Whole meets in the coming weeks. This will have a tremendous, positive impact on \_\_\_\_\_ Conservation District's long-term operational capacity and ability to serve the needs of your constituents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
[Your name]



## Michigan Association of Conservation Districts

### Legislative Advocacy Instructions re: Funding Appropriations for Fiscal Year '22

#### **Email Script from Local Landowner/Farmer:**

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_, I own a farm [or working lands] in [City/Township], which is covered by \_\_\_\_\_ Conservation District.

I am writing to you today to express my disappointment that funding for all 75 of Michigan's Conservation Districts was omitted from the FY '22 MDARD budget. I encourage you and your colleagues to reconsider funding for Michigan's Conservation Districts when the final budget is considered in the coming weeks before the Committee of the Whole.

\_\_\_\_\_ Conservation District provides a critical service to our community in the form of technical assistance to farmers and landowners such as myself. We've received help from \_\_\_\_\_ Conservation District in the form of [list form of assistance that was provided by your CD].

In addition, our Conservation District engages in a variety of other programs that help our protect our local environment, such as [List examples of programs your CD offers, i.e. MAEAP, Conservation Technical Assistance (CTAI), FAP, CISMA, etc.]. For 12 years, since the Michigan Legislature decided to end all state-level funding of Conservation Districts, we've watched our local district's operational capacity dwindle, and it has severely impacted the services we receive from them.

I urge you to work with your colleagues on the House Appropriations Committee to reverse course and immediately appropriate the requested \$3 million, as it will have a tremendous, positive impact on \_\_\_\_\_ Conservation District's long-term operational capacity to help farmers and landowners such as myself.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your name]