

Lauren Weston

Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District
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My name is Lauren Weston, I live in South Burlington and work in St. Albans, Vermont. I am the District Manager of the Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District.

I am writing today to share a request. Please increase base funding for the Natural Resources Conservation Council by \$2.5 million for a total base budget of \$3 million to address the chronic underfunding of Vermont's Natural Resources Conservation Districts and support out state's conservation delivery system.

Vermont's Natural Resources Conservation Districts connect people, organizations, and resources to steward our land and water resources for the future.

I am asking for support for the Conservation Districts because as the District Manager in Franklin County, I have clearly seen the need for more technical and financial assistance for farmers and land stewards. Farmers, especially dairy farmers or those transitioning out of dairying and into new ventures, actively seek help to improve their practices and management for clean water, healthy soils, and resilient farms. Funding the Conservation Districts will allow for more staff capacity to build lasting relationships with these farmers who are looking for support to keep doing what they love and to keep Vermont's agricultural identity so strong.

Once again, please increase base funding for the Natural Resources Conservation Council by \$2.5 million for a total base budget of \$3 million to address the chronic underfunding of Vermont's Natural Resources Conservation Districts and support our state's conservation delivery system.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lauren Weston