

you who come from rural areas understand, when you are a participant in the farm program, it calls for you to begin developing conservation programs and plans on your operation to deal with soil erosion. That is just part of the responsibility, as a farmer, that you have to comply with in order to receive your benefits under the farm program. Because of that and because of the fact that there are great demands on both the state, national and local levels for cost-share dollars, it is important that we make every attempt available to provide the funding necessary to farmers to meet those requirements under the 1985 Food Security Act. Right now, for every \$1 available there are three times the demand, or three times greater the demand for cost-share dollars for the Natural Resource Soil and Water Conservation Fund. I think it's vitally important that we provide these funds to farmers to help with the needs that they are going to have to meet, if they are going to continue to participate in the farm program. Naturally you might say, well, the farm program is going to be rewritten in 1990, and there is a possibility that maybe some of these requirements will not be included. The fact is, as I have talked to congressional leaders, our own congressional representation in Washington, it is very clear to me that the conservation plans, the conservation program is going to be included in whatever farm program is put together. The emphasis on conservation, soil stewardship, I think, is very evident based upon the discussions that I've had with congressional leaders in Washington, D.C. The funding would increase the conservation program from about 3.5 million dollars to about 4 million dollars for each year in the biennium. That money would be spent for conservation the first year. The second year would be...is projected to be spent for water quality and management practices. Unfortunately we have a lot of nonpoint source contamination in this state on surface water. The importance is that we have to begin designing programs to meet the problems that nonpoint source contamination causes in this state. Much of the nonpoint source contamination manages to get into drinking water, which, of course, is a very serious problem for health reasons and also because many communities have had to relocate their municipal drinking wells around the state. This program, this additional money would help to meet the need of nonpoint source contamination and how we might be able to address that problem across the state. With that I would ask the body to approve the amendment and hopefully provide the funding that is necessary to meet two very vital needs, soil erosion problems and also nonpoint source contamination.