



New York Association of Conservation Districts
c/o Steuben County SWCD
24 North Street
Edmeston, NY 13335
www.nyacd.org

January 21, 2026

Dear Governor Hochul and NY Legislators,

The New York State Association of Conservation Districts (NYACD) would like to thank Governor Hochul and the Joint Legislative Body for the continued support of the Soil and Water Conservation District in New York in the proposed Executive Budget for fiscal year 2027. New York States 58 Soil and Water Conservation Districts are recognized as local leaders in comprehensive natural resource conservation, providing programs and services to conserve, enhance, and protect soil and water resources across the state by focusing on environmental planning and conservation best practices. Districts are involved in many of the programs within the proposed budget. The increased funding is greatly appreciated for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, The level and increased funding for Climate Resilient Farms Program, Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Projects, Farmland Protection, Water Quality Improvement Program, the Oceans and Great Lakes, Invasive Species, Agricultural Waste Management, and the Waterfront Revitalization Program allows Districts to continue to work with New York State's municipalities, landowners, and producers.

New York's Soil and Water Conservation Districts are SWCDs work to address natural resource conservation needs identified at the local level and have the flexibility to respond as needs arise. They can get conservation projects done quickly, efficiently, and cost effectively and are the local governmental agency responsible for determining their constituents' needs and for setting local conservation policies carried out by various agencies and organizations.

NYACD recognizes the priorities that New York State needs to address and requests that the Governor and the Legislative body approve the programs at their proposed budgeted amounts. This will allow Soil and Water Conservation Districts to continue to maintain current levels of programming and public assistance. Any increase will only enhance existing programs and allow us to expand on protecting New York's Natural Resources.

Sincerely,

Blanche

Blanche L Hurlbutt
NYACD Executive Director