

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1502

March 17, 1995

Webster County Soil and
Water Conservation District
1200 1/2 - 3rd Ave. N.W.
Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501-2221

Dear Webster County Conservationists:

It has come to my attention that you are celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the ~~Ida~~ ^{Webster} County Soil and Water Conservation District, and I wish to send my congratulations on that achievement and for your valuable contributions to the agricultural community. Iowa's fertile soil and abundant waters are indeed the greatest natural resources our state has, and it is in good measure your efforts that have carried that message forward.

As one drives through the Iowa countryside today it is remarkable to note the great changes that have occurred in tillage practices over the years. New crop residue management regimes have helped farmers save tons and tons of their greatest capital, the soil. The societal benefits of keeping the soil out of our drainage ditches and our rivers and streams is also enormous. It is the Soil and Water Conservation Districts that have helped the farming community adopt proven and practical techniques to conserve soil in a way that does not effect profitability in a negative way. You should be rightfully proud of that accomplishment.

But of course this is not a time to rest on our laurels. There is much work that remains to be done, certainly enough to keep you busy for another fifty years. It is imperative that we continue on the path of wise stewardship of our land in a way that allows farm families to make a reasonable living and stay on the farm. I applaud your accomplishments in these fifty years, and encourage the continuance of your efforts in the future.

Sincerely,



Tom Harkin
United States Senator

TH/jnm