



**Memo**

**To:** NACD Officers, Executive Board, Board Members, Presidents and Executive Directors of State/Territory Associations, Members

**From:** Jeremy Peters, NACD CEO

**Date:** January 20, 2026

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeremy Peters".

**Re:** **NACD Update on Recent Congressional and Executive Actions**

*\*\*All NACD updates are accessible on the [members only page](#) of the NACD website.\*\**

**Headlines and Deadlines**

- Senate passes partial funding package including Dept. of Interior and EPA appropriations
- USDA announces new data set program for Rural Date Gateway
- EPA announces it is seeking nominations for the Federal Ranches and Rural Communities Advisory Council (FRRCC)

**Action Items:**

- Please provide success stories using 319 funding or wetland protections
- Local perspectives on pilot design and implementation

**Current Events**

**Congress**

On January 15, the Senate passed the bipartisan appropriations package sent by the House by a vote of 82-15. The package now goes to the President for signature. If signed by the President, this package would fund the Department of Interior, including the Environmental Protection Agency and the Forest Service, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Justice.

The House also passed and sent to Senate a two-bill package funding the State Department and the Department of Treasury. Congress still has four more funding packages to address before the continuing resolution expires on January 30. *Please see the GA Updates memo from 1/13 for more information on specific funding levels.*

**USDA**

On January 19, Deputy Secretary Stephen Vaden unveiled the “Lender Lens” on the Rural Data Gateway as a way to improve transparency on federal spending. The dashboard is designed to showcase key metrics, including total loan volume, average loan size, loan distribution by sector, geographic spread, and delinquency rates, allowing an at-a-glance look at activity nationwide.



The data is refreshed monthly and provides timely, flexible access to information for individuals who need it.

## **EPA**

On January 16, EPA [announced](#) it is taking nominations for membership on the Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Advisory Committee (FRRCC). The FRRCC is made up of multiple subcommittees to provide policy advice, information, and recommendations to the Administrator on a range of environmental issues and policies that are important to agricultural and rural communities.

<https://www.epa.gov/faca/frrcc>

## **Action Items:**

### ***Water Quality/Improvement Projects***

To inform our advocacy and in advance of NACD's spring fly-in, NACD is requesting any and all success stories of projects using 319 grant funding and/or highlighting wetland restoration. Please contact Libby Wawro at [libby-wawro@nacdnet.org](mailto:libby-wawro@nacdnet.org) with any stories, articles or links. NACD is also glad to set up a phone call to learn more about local initiatives and successes.

### ***Locally Led Conservation Delivery System***

NACD applauds the Trump Administration's leadership in elevating soil health as a national priority by two Secretaries, reflecting a strong commitment to America's farmers, ranchers, and working lands. It is important to recognize that several of these initiatives are being launched as pilots or initial steps. NACD looks forward to working with NRCS to better understand how they will be implemented on the ground and strengthen the locally led conservation delivery system.

We are particularly interested in hearing from members and understanding how these pilots can work across different geographies, natural resource concerns, and operation types, while remaining accessible to of all sizes.

- Regenerative Agriculture Initiative (RAI) pilot
- SUSTAINS Act Implementation (potential impacts of matching private donations with federal conservation program funds)
- Establishment of 5 ranking pools per program, per state
- Recently published FY2026 payment schedules and practice scenarios for EQIP and CSP

Please feel free to reach out to any member of the NACD Government Affairs team or provide written feedback through this [form](#).