



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION TITLE: Support office of Small Farms Establishment Act

SPONSORING ENTITY Thurston CD

AREA: NW SW NC SC NE SE

RESOLUTION TYPE:

- Policy
- Position Statement
- Recognition
- Study

RESOLUTION ACTION AGENCY (check any option that applies):

- WACD
- WSCC
- OTHER STATE AGENCY _____
- NRCS
- NACD (See Page 2)
- NON-STATE/FEDERAL PARTNER _____

TYPE OF TEXT OF RESOLUTION (check all boxes that apply):

- Technical (changes address grammar, punctuation, sentence flow and makes **NO** substantive change(s) to the existing policy.
- Substantive change to existing policy. If in doubt, check the box.
- New policy.

BACKGROUND DESCRIBING THE ISSUE/PROBLEM STATEMENT:

U.S. Representative Marilyn Strickland introduced the bicameral Office of Small Farms Establishment Act, which would create an Office of Small Farms at USDA.

“Nearly 90% of all farms in Washington State and the vast majority of farms in the U.S. are operated by small, family farmers, but too often they lack the operation support to take full advantage of the grants and assistance programs offered by USDA,” said Representative Strickland. “The Office of Small Farms Establishment Act would ensure the resilience of the country’s food systems, invest in minority-owned farms that are often left behind, and recognize challenges facing small farms today.”

The Office of Small Farms would serve as a central hub for operation, financial, and technical support that directly serves small farmers with grants and technical assistance to ensure that all USDA programs are designed to meet the needs of small farmers. Small acreage farms make up 89% of all farms in Washington state, 70% of all farms in the U.S. and are vital to rural economic growth, food security, and



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local food supply chains. USDA programs often favor large-scale farms and operations due to disadvantages small farms face, including staff shortages, program design, and resource gaps.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION LANGUAGE:

WACD and NACD support the Office of Small Farms Establishment Act and advocate for coordination and integration with conservation districts nationally.

IS THERE A WACD FINANCIAL IMPLICATION TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY? (Funding required, staff time, etc.)

NO

YES (briefly explain):

If the proposed resolution is to be adopted by NACD complete the sections below to the best of your ability. If the resolution is adopted at the state level, please reach out to the NACD National Director for assistance in finalizing this form.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION LANGUAGE:

WACD and NACD support the Office of Small Farms Establishment Act and advocate for coordination and integration with conservation districts nationally.

SPONSOR(S) ACTIONS TO DATE: (What has been done to address the issue; which agencies and organizations have addressed it also.)

IMPACT ON EXISTING NACD POLICY (if any): (Review NACD Policy Book for existing policies covering this issue.)

IF APPROPRIATE, POTENTIAL FISCAL IMPACT ON NACD's OR A FEDERAL AGENCY BUDGET:
(E.g., travel, training, equipment, etc.)



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MEETING AND DATE ADOPTED BY SPONSORING ENTITY: (E.g., WACD annual meeting date)

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE(S) AND TITLE(S): (Type name and Title)

WACD National Director (NACD board member)