

Waste Action Alert

*A publication of the RSC Sunset Caucus from co-chairs Kevin Brady (R-TX) and Jason Chaffetz (R-UT)  
Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH), RSC Chairman*

## Eliminate the Conservation Stewardship Program

July 11, 2012

**Program or Item Targeted:** Funding for the Conservation Stewardship Program.

**Cost of Program or Item:** This legislation could save up to \$10.6 billion over ten years.

**Background on Program or Item to Be Sunseted:** The 2008 Farm Bill (Sec.2301) created the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) to provide financial assistance to farmers who are proactive about managing current and implementing new conservation systems in agricultural production. It is specifically designed to incentivize farmers to “conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources” in use.

**Why This Item Is Wasteful:** CSP pays farmers engaged in soil conservation activities up to \$200,000 over five years for undertaking steps already routinely taken by responsible farms. Some of these include installing a forage based grazing system for livestock, building wildlife friendly fences, enhancing activities that improve wildlife habitat on cropland and adjacent areas, implementing enhancements that reduce the use of fuel for field operations by cutting back on the number of trips a piece of equipment makes across a field and reducing tillage intensity. The federal government should not be involved in paying farmers to do something which is already in the farmer’s own interest. Furthermore, with an ever-increasing debt, the federal government should not be borrowing money from our children to finance an unnecessary conservation program.

**MEMBER ACTION ITEM:** Rep. Tim Scott introduced H.R. 4015, the Responsible Farming Act of 2012, which would eliminate the Conservation Stewardship Program. Terminating this program while still honoring existing contracts (including the five year renewal) could save up to \$10.6 billion over ten years. For more information or to cosponsor, please contact Elizabeth Simmons at [Elizabeth.Simmons@mail.house.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Simmons@mail.house.gov).

If you would like to participate in eliminating wasteful programs with the RSC Sunset Caucus, please e-mail [Rick.Eberstadt@mail.house.gov](mailto:Rick.Eberstadt@mail.house.gov).

Note: Not every item featured in the Waste Action Alerts is necessarily endorsed by the RSC. These Alerts highlight the individual initiatives of members of the RSC Sunset Caucus.

*“The RSC Sunset Caucus uncovers government waste and seeks to eliminate it,  
working to sunset programs that taxpayers shouldn’t be paying for.”*

