

1. Fully fund our Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) at \$13 million  
Illinois' ninety-seven SWCDs are local, representative partnerships responsible for keeping our rich, natural soil healthy and productive. They are trusted experts on specifics of soil health and water quality in their district. With only \$7.5 million in funds for the entire state, SWCD can't do their job for Illinois.
2. Sponsor the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Resolution to support the state's plan under the 2008 federal Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan to reduce our phosphorus load by 25% and nitrogen load by 15% by 2025. (HR 1120/ SR 1775)
3. Attract more federal investment in Illinois by assuring all eligible Illinois land is covered by participating in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). CREP provides federal dollars to help restore flooded and environmentally sensitive cropland. Nearly half of Illinois' land is covered and for every \$1 we invest, the state receives \$4 in federal matching funds.

For our economic strength, for the well-being of every citizen, and for our future...

## ILLINOIS NEEDS US TO DO MORE TO PROTECT OUR FRAGILE LAND AND KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN



Nutrient pollution is a major threat to Illinois' agricultural economy, its drinking water and its natural habitats.

Plants and animals need nitrogen and phosphorus to survive but when too much is carried in runoff, soil quality is lowered, which affects future productivity and the natural composition of Illinois' ground water and natural habitat. Down river, it can fuel algal blooms that suck oxygen out of the water. In the Gulf of Mexico, nutrients washed down by the Mississippi River have created a 'dead zone' the size of New Jersey.



Many producers across Illinois are taking action to reduce nutrient runoff from farmland. They are:

- Using conservation practices, including cover crops, no-till or strip till, or a nitrogen inhibitor when applying fertilizer

- Managing soil health and reducing erosion with support from the robust network of county Soil and Water Conservation Districts across the state who provide technical assistance, practice innovations, and offer financial assistance.
- Applying for federal Conservation Stewardship Program support to mitigate the risks and costs of conservation practices.

It's time to take action to benefit all of Illinois by supporting farmers' efforts to protect soil health and water quality.



For more information, contact:

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