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STATE OF KANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & PARKS

Operations Office
512 SE 25th Avenue
Pratt, KS 67124-8174
316/672-5911 FAX 316/672-6020



March 6, 1996

Joel Berg
Director of National Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Ag. Box 1301
Washington, DC 20250-1301

Dear Mr. Berg:

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to allow Kansas, and specifically the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, to be associated with the USDA Americorps program. Those crews who served for the Natural Resources Conservation Service on flood-related projects at our reservoirs have been particularly beneficial. These crews have completed many projects with tremendous long-term resource and economic benefits. Kansas' natural resources, our state parks, our wildlife areas, and our citizens will derive many benefits for years to come from the service provided by these individuals.

While these individuals have accomplished much, there is much more that must be accomplished. If possible, we would like you to consider renewing commitments to allow these existing crews to continue their efforts next fiscal year. Due to restructuring within the Department, which was effective March 10, 1996, Americorps coordination for the Department has been reassigned from Mr. Robert Barbee to Region 4 Parks Supervisor Alan Stark (Great Plains Nature Center, 6232 E. 29th St. N., Wichita, KS 67220 316-683-8069). You should be receiving documents soon from Mr. Stark concerning the support these crews will have. Should any additional crews be available, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks would be greatly interested in discussing future possibilities with you.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and again for the opportunity to be associated with this fine program. I hope it was as beneficial for the members who served as it was for Kansas.

Sincerely,


Rob Manes
Assistant Secretary for Operations

kp
cc: Jerry Hover
Alan Stark
Robert Barbee
File: 807 c



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Lisy Brown, Office of Senator Bumpers

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA *JB*

11 pages, including this cover

FYI, attached are three pages of print-outs specifying both the location of and the accomplishments of USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps sites in Arkansas.

Attached is a two page memo updating the current status of the overall USDA AmeriCorps program and the compromise we are seeking to reach this week with Senator Bond. Also attached is a letter from Harris Wofford to Senator Grassley on this matter.

Also attached is a letter from the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps relating to a provision of the Interior Appropriations Bill that has halted all AmeriCorps projects sponsored by the USDA Forest Service, including rural water projects planned for Arkansas. Unfortunately, Senator Byrd has supported the anti-AmeriCorps provision in the bill.

Any help your office could provide with Bond and/or Byrd would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact me at 720-5746. Thank you for your consideration.

September 11, 1996

To: Lisy Brown, Office of Senator Bumpers

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA 

Subject: **Compromise to Allow USDA AmeriCorps Projects to Continue**

In both the 1994-1995 program year and the 1995-1996 program year, USDA sponsored community-based AmeriCorps projects throughout the country that fought hunger, protected the environment, and boosted rural community development. In both program years, the projects were supported by four sources of funding:

- 1) Corporation for National Service (CNS) funding paid for educational awards for AmeriCorps Members that successfully completed the program. *These funds were not transferred to USDA --- they were deposited into a trust fund that will later pay the lending and/or educational institutions of AmeriCorps graduates.*
- 2) CNS funds were granted from CNS to USDA, which USDA, in turn, sub-granted to local AmeriCorps projects --- principally to five anti-hunger projects.
- 3) USDA utilized money from the Department's own appropriated funds. USDA used funds from several agencies to support AmeriCorps projects that provided critical community services in areas directly related to the mission areas of those agencies.
- 4) State and local governments and private sector organizations provided matching funds. In the 1994-1995 program year, non-Federal sources provided \$1.7 million in funding to USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps projects.

However, in order to meet concerns raised by Senator Bond and others, CNS will no longer make grants of *operating* funds to Federal agencies. The legal result of this policy is that USDA funding source #2 --- operating funds transferred from CNS to USDA --- has been eliminated.

The few USDA AmeriCorps projects that were most dependent on this source of funding -- the five anti-hunger projects --- banded together as a consortium under the umbrella of the non-profit Congressional Hunger Center to successfully apply for funding directly from CNS.

The prohibition on the distribution of CNS operating funds (funding source #2) to Federal agencies does NOT restrict the ability of CNS to enter into cooperative agreements with Federal agencies, such as USDA, in order to provide non-financial assistance to AmeriCorps projects of Federal agencies and provide educational awards (funding source #1) to the AmeriCorps Members in those projects.

Thus, USDA still has the *legal* ability to use their own appropriated funds (source #3) and obtain state, local, and private matching funds (source #4) to support AmeriCorps projects.

Consequently, if CNS signs a cooperative agreement providing non-monetary assistance to USDA, AmeriCorps programs sponsored by the Department will still have the legal ability to continue --- and the graduates of those projects will still be able to obtain educational awards.

Thus, new legislation and/or additional appropriations are NOT required to continue the USDA AmeriCorps program. However, even though both CNS and USDA have both the legal and financial ability to ensure that USDA can continue to run an AmeriCorps program, the Department and CNS are seeking to reach a bi-partisan *policy* consensus with key leaders in Congress that USDA will do so. USDA and CNS are seeking at least tacit approval from Senator Christopher (Kit) Bond, Chairperson of the Senate Appropriations Sub-Committee which funds CNS, on this issue.

The USDA AmeriCorps program --- including projects in Arkansas --- has been placed on hold pending such discussions.

USDA and CNS both want to be sure that Members of Congress do not have even the perception that USDA and CNS are violating Congressional intent by continuing to sponsor AmeriCorps projects.

Secretary of Agriculture Glickman is scheduled to Friday with Senator Bond to discuss this issue.

Some have suggested that full responsibility for funding and managing all USDA AmeriCorps projects to be transferred to state commissions on national service. Yet **most state commissions on national service have neither the available funds nor the technical expertise to continue these projects on their own. In addition, most state commissions do not have the ability to effectively place projects in many of the rural areas served by USDA AmeriCorps projects. While most state commissions strongly support the USDA AmeriCorps projects in their state, they do NOT want to take them over.** In reality, transferring these projects to state commissions would be, in effect, an unfunded mandate placed on the states.

One sensible compromise would be to allow state commissions to exercise a veto power over USDA AmeriCorps projects in their state. USDA would still be allowed to fund and manage projects in any state, with the exception of a state in which the state commission, appointed by the state's governor, disapproves of the project. It would be assumed that USDA AmeriCorps projects would be able to continue in states without state commissions such as South Dakota and North Dakota.

Such a compromise would meet Senator Bond's desire to place final control over our AmeriCorps projects under state governments, while allowing a wide range of quality projects to continue serving communities across America.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Leigh Burkhalter,
Missouri Association of Pork Producers

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

4 pages, including this cover

Per our discussion, attached is a two page memo updating the current status of the overall USDA AmeriCorps program and the compromise we are seeking to reach this week with Senator Bond.

Also attached is a one page description of the USDA AmeriCorps projects in Missouri.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 720-5746. Thank you for your consideration.

September 11, 1996

To: Leigh Burkhalter, Missouri Pork Producers

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

Subject: **Compromise to Allow USDA AmeriCorps Projects to Continue**

In both the 1994-1995 program year and the 1995-1996 program year, USDA sponsored community-based AmeriCorps projects throughout the country that fought hunger, protected the environment, and boosted rural community development. In both program years, the projects were supported by four sources of funding:

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Such a compromise would meet Senator Bond's desire to place final control over our AmeriCorps projects under state governments, while allowing a wide range of quality projects to continue serving communities across America.

USDA AmeriCorps Projects in Missouri

In Missouri, USDA sponsored 11 full-time AmeriCorps Members last year, sponsored five full-time AmeriCorps Members this year, and is sponsoring five additional AmeriCorps Members this summer and fall in a special project focused on recovering excess food for distribution to citizens in need.

Last Year (1994-1995) Program Year

Eleven AmeriCorps Members aided flood recovery work on 53,000 acres of land; provided conservation education to 1,770 students; helped maintain 27 flood-retarding dams; assisted 95 landowners in assessing herbicide runoff into the water supply; worked with 11 farmers to develop water management plans; completed flood prevention work on 3,600 acres of land; and restored 995 acres of wetlands.

This Year (1995-1996) Program Year

Five AmeriCorps Members performed "Farm-a-Syst" water quality evaluations for 300 farm families, over 60% of whom adopted all or some of the water quality protection measures recommended by the AmeriCorps Members. *This project has been aided significantly by the support of the Missouri Farm Bureau, the Missouri Pork Producers Association, the University Extension Service of Missouri, and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.* The AmeriCorps Members also provided conservation education to over 2,000 students and 900 adults, of whom 99% and 97%, respectively, later demonstrated improved knowledge of conservation issues.

This Summer and Fall ("Summer of Gleaning" Initiative)

As part of Secretary Glickman's personal initiative to increase the nation's commitment to recovering excess food for distribution to hungry citizens, AmeriCorps Members are serving this summer and fall in a food recovery project in the Kansas City area. In just the first few weeks of the project, the USDA AmeriCorps Members recovered over 500 pounds of food, which will provide about 330 meals.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Rick Remish, Office of Senator Rockefeller

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA *JB*

12 pages, including this cover

FYI, attached are four pages of print-outs specifying both the location of and the accomplishments of USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps sites in West Virginia.

Attached is a two page memo updating the current status of the overall USDA AmeriCorps program and the compromise we are seeking to reach this week with Senator Bond. Also attached is a letter from Harris Wofford to Senator Grassley on this matter.

Also attached is a letter from the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps relating to a provision of the Interior Appropriations Bill that has halted all AmeriCorps projects sponsored by the USDA Forest Service, including rural water projects planned for West Virginia. Unfortunately, Senator Byrd has supported the anti-AmeriCorps provision in the bill.

Any help your office could provide with Bond and/or Byrd would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact me at 720-5746. If it would be helpful for me to brief on this issue in person, I would be more than willing to do so at your convenience any time this week.. Thank you for your consideration.

September 11, 1996

To: Rick Remish, Office of Senator Rockefeller

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

Subject: **Compromise to Allow USDA AmeriCorps Projects to Continue**

In both the 1994-1995 program year and the 1995-1996 program year, USDA sponsored community-based AmeriCorps projects throughout the country that fought hunger, protected the environment, and boosted rural community development. In both program years, the projects were supported by four sources of funding:

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However, in order to meet concerns raised by Senator Bond and others, CNS will no longer make grants of *operating* funds to Federal agencies. The legal result of this policy is that USDA funding source #2 --- operating funds transferred from CNS to USDA --- has been eliminated.

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The USDA AmeriCorps program --- including projects in West Virginia --- has been placed on hold pending such discussions.

USDA and CNS both want to be sure that Members of Congress do not have even the perception that USDA and CNS are violating Congressional intent by continuing to sponsor AmeriCorps projects.

Secretary of Agriculture Glickman is sscheduled to meet soon with Senator Bond to discuss this issue.

Some have suggested that full responsibility for funding and managing all USDA AmeriCorps projects to be transferred to state commissions on national service. Yet **most state commissions on national service have neither the available funds nor the technical expertise to continue these projects on their own. In addition, most state commissions do not have the ability to effectively place projects in many of the rural areas served by USDA AmeriCorps projects. While most state commissions strongly support the USDA AmeriCorps projects in their state, they do NOT want to take them over.** In reality, transferring these projects to state commissions would be, in effect, an unfunded mandate placed on the states.

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UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Jeff Shockley, Office of Congressman Lewis

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

6 pages, including this cover

Although, as you know, the Forest Service was not able to sponsor AmeriCorps projects this fiscal year, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service sponsored excellent projects in Barstow, Lancaster, and Redlands. As you can see from the attached print-outs, all the sites have achieved concrete, measurable results.

Following up on the June 7 letter that Harris Wofford sent to Congressman Lewis, attached is a two page memo specifically updating the current status of the overall USDA AmeriCorps program and the compromise we are seeking to reach with Senator Bond. Any help your office could provide in this matter would be greatly appreciated. Once we settle the overall issue, we can then focus on the Forest Service issue.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 720-5746. Thank you for your consideration.

August 29, 1996

To: Jeff Shockley, Office of Congressman Lewis

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA *JB*

Subject: **Compromise to Allow USDA AmeriCorps Projects to Continue**

In both the 1994-1995 program year and the 1995-1996 program year, USDA sponsored community-based AmeriCorps projects throughout the country that fought hunger, protected the environment, and boosted rural community development. In both program years, the projects were supported by four sources of funding:

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However, even though both CNS and USDA have the *legal* ability to ensure that USDA can continue to run an AmeriCorps program, the Department and CNS are seeking to reach a bi-partisan *policy* consensus with key leaders in Congress that USDA will do so. The USDA AmeriCorps program --- including all projects in California -- has been placed on hold pending such discussions.

USDA and CNS both want to be sure that Members of Congress do not have even the perception that USDA and CNS are violating Congressional intent by continuing to sponsor AmeriCorps projects.

Secretary of Agriculture Glickman is seeking to meet with Senator Bond as soon as possible to discuss this issue.

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UNITED
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To: Mike Mills, Office of Senators Bond and Ashcroft

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA JB

3 pages, including this cover

It was good meeting you on my recent trip to Missouri. As of a number of weeks ago, USDA AmeriCorps in Missouri had completed 244 water quality assessments for farm families, provided community presentations on water quality to 818 adults, and had provided conservation education to 1800 students.

FYI, attached is a two page memo specifically updating the current status of the overall USDA AmeriCorps program and the compromise we are seeking to reach with Senator Bond. I have also been in touch with Shawn Gilleylen in DC on this matter.

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To: Emily Wertz, Office of Senator Bingaman

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA JB

6 pages, including this cover

As you may be aware, USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps Members recently received wide-spread community praise for their disaster-relief efforts in New Mexico in the Questa and Llama areas. In addition, as the attached print-outs demonstrate, USDA AmeriCorps Members have achieved concrete, measurable results in critical service projects throughout the state.

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However, even though both CNS and USDA have the *legal* ability to ensure that USDA can continue to run an AmeriCorps program, the Department and CNS are seeking to reach a bi-partisan *policy* consensus with key leaders in Congress that USDA will do so. The USDA AmeriCorps program --- including all projects in new Mexico -- has been placed on hold pending such discussions.

USDA and CNS both want to be sure that Members of Congress do not have even the perception that USDA and CNS are violating Congressional intent by continuing to sponsor AmeriCorps projects.

Secretary of Agriculture Glickman is seeking to meet with Senator Bond as soon as possible to discuss this issue.

Some have suggested that full responsibility for funding and managing all USDA AmeriCorps projects to be transferred to state commissions on national service. Yet **most state commissions on national service have neither the available funds nor the technical expertise to continue these projects on their own. In addition, most state commissions do not have the ability to effectively place projects in many of the rural areas served by USDA AmeriCorps projects. While most state commissions strongly support the USDA AmeriCorps projects in their state, they do NOT want to take them over.** In reality, transferring these projects to state commissions would be, in effect, an unfunded mandate placed on the states.

One sensible compromise would be to allow state commissions to exercise a veto power over USDA AmeriCorps projects in their state. USDA would still be allowed to fund and manage projects in any state, with the exception of a state in which the state commission, appointed by the state's governor, disapproves of the project.

Such a compromise would meet Senator Bond's desire to place final control over our AmeriCorps projects under state governments, while allowing a wide range of quality projects to continue serving communities across America.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Brian Jones, Office of Senator Domenici

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

JB

6 pages, including this cover

As you may be aware, USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps Members recently received wide-spread community praise for their disaster-relief efforts in New Mexico in the Questa and Llama areas. In addition, as the attached print-outs demonstrate, USDA AmeriCorps Members have achieved concrete, measurable results in critical service projects throughout the state.

FYI, attached is a two page memo updating the current status of the overall USDA AmeriCorps program and the compromise we are seeking to reach with Senator Bond. Any help your office could provide on this matter would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 720-5746. Thank you for your consideration.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Tom Compton, Office of Senator Campbell

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

BR

4 pages, including this cover

FYI, attached is updated information about our excellent AmeriCorps projects in Colorado. As you can see from the print-outs, all the sites have achieved concrete, measurable results that significantly matter.

Also attached is a two page memo specifically explaining the current status of the USDA AmeriCorps program and the compromise we are seeking to reach with Senator Bond. Any help the Senator could provide would be greatly appreciate. **If the issue is not resolved soon, we may have to cancell all our projects in Colorado.**

If you have any questions, please contact me at 720-5746. Thank you for your consideration.

To: Tom Compton, Office of Seantor Cambell

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA 

Subject: **Compromise to Allow USDA AmeriCorps Projects to Continue**

In both the 1994-1995 program year and the 1995-1996 program year, USDA sponsored community-based AmeriCorps projects throughout the country that fought hunger, protected the environment, and boosted rural community development. In both program years, the projects were supported by four sources of funding:

- 1) Corporation for National Service (CNS) funding paid for educational awards for AmeriCorps Members that successfully completed the program. *These funds were not transferred to USDA --- they were deposited into a trust fund that will later pay the lending and/or educational institutions of AmeriCorps graduates.*
- 2) CNS funds were granted from CNS to USDA, which USDA, in turn, sub-granted to local AmeriCorps projects --- principally to five anti-hunger projects.
- 3) USDA utilized money from the Department's own appropriated funds. USDA used funds from several agencies to support AmeriCorps projects that provided critical community services in areas directly related to the mission areas of those agencies.
- 4) State and local governments and private sector organizations provided matching funds. In the 1994-1995 program year, non-Federal sources provided \$1.7 million in funding to USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps projects.

However, in order to meet concerns raised by Senator Bond and others, CNS will no longer make grants of *operating* funds to Federal agencies. The legal result of this policy is that USDA funding source #2 --- operating funds transferred from CNS to USDA --- has been eliminated.

The few USDA AmeriCorps projects that were most dependent on this source of funding -- the five anti-hunger projects --- banded together as a consortium under the umbrella of the non-profit Congressional Hunger Center to successfully apply for funding directly from CNS.

The prohibition on the distribution of CNS operating funds (funding source #2) to Federal agencies does NOT restrict the ability of CNS to enter into cooperative agreements with Federal agencies, such as USDA, in order to provide non-financial assistance to AmeriCorps projects of Federal agencies and provide educational awards (funding source #1) to the AmeriCorps Members in those projects.

Thus, USDA still has the *legal* ability to use their own appropriated funds (source #3) and obtain state, local, and private matching funds (source #4) to support AmeriCorps projects.

Consequently, if CNS signs a cooperative agreement providing non-monetary assistance to USDA, AmeriCorps programs sponsored by the Department will still have the legal ability to continue --- and the graduates of those projects will still be able to obtain educational awards.

However, even though both CNS and USDA have the *legal* ability to ensure that USDA can continue to run an AmeriCorps program, the Department and CNS are seeking to reach a bi-partisan *policy* consensus with key leaders in Congress that USDA will do so. The USDA AmeriCorps program --- including all projects in Colorado -- has been placed on hold pending such discussions.

USDA and CNS both want to be sure that Members of Congress do not have even the perception that USDA and CNS are violating Congressional intent by continuing to sponsor AmeriCorps projects.

Secretary of Agriculture Glickman is seeking to meet with Senator Bond as soon as possible to discuss this issue.

Some have suggested that full responsibility for funding and managing all USDA AmeriCorps projects to be transferred to state commissions on national service. Yet **most state commissions on national service have neither the available funds nor the technical expertise to continue these projects on their own. In addition, most state commissions do not have the ability to effectively place projects in many of the rural areas served by USDA AmeriCorps projects. While most state commissions strongly support the USDA AmeriCorps projects in their state, they do NOT want to take them over.** In reality, transferring these projects to state commissions would be, in effect, an unfunded mandate placed on the states.

One sensible compromise would be to allow state commissions to exercise a veto power over USDA AmeriCorps projects in their state. USDA would still be allowed to fund and manage projects in any state, with the exception of a state in which the state commission, appointed by the state's governor, disapproves of the project.

Such a compromise would meet Senator Bond's desire to place final control over our AmeriCorps projects under state governments, while allowing a wide range of quality projects to continue serving communities across America.

August 29, 1996

To: Brian Jones, Office of Senator Domenici

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA *JB*

Subject: **Compromise to Allow USDA AmeriCorps Projects to Continue**

In both the 1994-1995 program year and the 1995-1996 program year, USDA sponsored community-based AmeriCorps projects throughout the country that fought hunger, protected the environment, and boosted rural community development. In both program years, the projects were supported by four sources of funding:

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However, in order to meet concerns raised by Senator Bond and others, CNS will no longer make grants of *operating* funds to Federal agencies. The legal result of this policy is that USDA funding source #2 --- operating funds transferred from CNS to USDA --- has been eliminated.

The few USDA AmeriCorps projects that were most dependent on this source of funding -- the five anti-hunger projects --- banded together as a consortium under the umbrella of the non-profit Congressional Hunger Center to successfully apply for funding directly from CNS.

The prohibition on the distribution of CNS operating funds (funding source #2) to Federal agencies does NOT restrict the ability of CNS to enter into cooperative agreements with Federal agencies, such as USDA, in order to provide non-financial assistance to AmeriCorps projects of Federal agencies and provide educational awards (funding source #1) to the AmeriCorps Members in those projects.

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However, even though both CNS and USDA have the *legal* ability to ensure that USDA can continue to run an AmeriCorps program, the Department and CNS are seeking to reach a bi-partisan *policy* consensus with key leaders in Congress that USDA will do so. The USDA AmeriCorps program --- including all projects in New Mexico -- has been placed on hold pending such discussions.

USDA and CNS both want to be sure that Members of Congress do not have even the perception that USDA and CNS are violating Congressional intent by continuing to sponsor AmeriCorps projects.

Secretary of Agriculture Glickman is seeking to meet with Senator Bond as soon as possible to discuss this issue.

Some have suggested that full responsibility for funding and managing all USDA AmeriCorps projects to be transferred to state commissions on national service. Yet **most state commissions on national service have neither the available funds nor the technical expertise to continue these projects on their own. In addition, most state commissions do not have the ability to effectively place projects in many of the rural areas served by USDA AmeriCorps projects. While most state commissions strongly support the USDA AmeriCorps projects in their state, they do NOT want to take them over.** In reality, transferring these projects to state commissions would be, in effect, an unfunded mandate placed on the states.

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Such a compromise would meet Senator Bond's desire to place final control over our AmeriCorps projects under state governments, while allowing a wide range of quality projects to continue serving communities across America.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Sherry Kaiman

From: Joel Berg *JB*

8 pages, including this cover

FYI, attached is a two page memo updating the current status of the overall USDA AmeriCorps program and the compromise we are seeking to reach with Senator Bond. Also attached is a letter from Harris Wofford to Senator Grassley on this matter.

Also attached is a letter from the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps relating to a provision of the Interior Appropriations Bill that has halted all AmeriCorps projects on National Forests, including the one on the White Mountain National Forest.

Any help your office could provide with Bond and/or Gorton would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact me at 720-5746.
consideration.

September 6, 1996

To: Sherry Kaiman

From: Joel Berg *JB*

Subject: **Compromise to Allow USDA AmeriCorps Projects to Continue**

In both the 1994-1995 program year and the 1995-1996 program year, USDA sponsored community-based AmeriCorps projects throughout the country that fought hunger, protected the environment, and boosted rural community development. In both program years, the projects were supported by four sources of funding:

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Thus, new legislation and/or additional appropriations are NOT required to continue the USDA AmeriCorps program. However, even though both CNS and USDA have both the legal and financial ability to ensure that USDA can continue to run an AmeriCorps program, the Department and CNS are seeking to reach a bi-partisan *policy* consensus with key leaders in Congress that USDA will do so. USDA and CNS are seeking at least tacit approval from Senator Christopher (Kit) Bond, Chairperson of the Senate Appropriations Sub-Committee which funds CNS, on this issue.

The USDA AmeriCorps program --- including projects in Vermont -- has been placed on hold pending such discussions.

USDA and CNS both want to be sure that Members of Congress do not have even the perception that USDA and CNS are violating Congressional intent by continuing to sponsor AmeriCorps projects.

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Such a compromise would meet Senator Bond's desire to place final control over our AmeriCorps projects under state governments, while allowing a wide range of quality projects to continue serving communities across America.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Glenn Ivey, Office of the Minority Leader

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA JB

9 pages, including this cover

Senator Daschle has personally visited with our AmeriCorps members in South Dakota and is well aware of their successes. As the attached print-out of our sites in South Dakota demonstrates, USDA AmeriCorps Members have achieved concrete, measurable results in projects critical to the people of the state.

FYI, attached is a two page memo updating the current status of the overall USDA AmeriCorps program and the compromise we are seeking to reach with Senator Bond. Also attached is a letter from Harris Wofford to Senator Grassley on this matter.

Also attached is a letter from the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps to Senators Gorton and Byrd relating to a provision of the Interior Appropriations Bill that has halted all AmeriCorps projects on National Forests. **Senator Byrd, the ranking member of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, has actually supported this anti-AmeriCorps provision.**

Any help your office could provide with Bond and/or Byrd would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact me at 720-5746.
consideration.

September 6, 1996

To: Glenn Ivey, Office of the Minority Leader

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA JB

Subject: **Compromise to Allow USDA AmeriCorps Projects to Continue**

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However, in order to meet concerns raised by Senator Bond and others, CNS will no longer make grants of *operating* funds to Federal agencies. The legal result of this policy is that USDA funding source #2 --- operating funds transferred from CNS to USDA --- has been eliminated.

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The USDA AmeriCorps program --- including all projects in South Dakota -- has been placed on hold pending such discussions.

USDA and CNS both want to be sure that Members of Congress do not have even the perception that USDA and CNS are violating Congressional intent by continuing to sponsor AmeriCorps projects.

Secretary of Agriculture Glickman is seeking to meet with Senator Bond as soon as possible to discuss this issue.

Some have suggested that full responsibility for funding and managing all USDA AmeriCorps projects to be transferred to state commissions on national service. Yet **most state commissions on national service have neither the available funds nor the technical expertise to continue these projects on their own. In addition, most state commissions do not have the ability to effectively place projects in many of the rural areas served by USDA AmeriCorps projects. While most state commissions strongly support the USDA AmeriCorps projects in their state, they do NOT want to take them over.** In reality, transferring these projects to state commissions would be, in effect, an unfunded mandate placed on the states.

One sensible compromise would be to allow state commissions to exercise a veto power over USDA AmeriCorps projects in their state. USDA would still be allowed to fund and manage projects in any state, with the exception of a state in which the state commission, appointed by the state's governor, disapproves of the project. It would be assumed that USDA AmeriCorps projects would be able to continue in states without state commissions such as South Dakota and North Dakota.

Such a compromise would meet Senator Bond's desire to place final control over our AmeriCorps projects under state governments, while allowing a wide range of quality projects to continue serving communities across America.

From: 2 National Service
To: JBerg
Date: 12/15/95 5:52pm
Subject: Sen. Staffers

? — Domenici
Brian Jones--224-7074

Bradley
Mark Schmidt--224-3224

Lautenberg
Mitch Warren--224-4744
*Mark and Mitch were invited along on your Jersey trip.

Feinstein
Kathryn Files Lacey--224-3841

Cohen
David Wilby--224-2523

Thompson
Tony DeVault--615-323-6217

Simon
Nancy Chen--312-353-4952

McConnell
Ken Upchurch--606-864-2026

Mosely-Braun
Carolyn Bay--312-886-8024

capacity to manage a high quality program. The proposal should evidence strong community support, and have a demonstrable impact on the community being served, together with the capacity to document that impact.

2. **Program Growth.** If the applicant currently sponsors an AmeriCorps project or another service project, there must be evidence that the availability of education awards will increase the size and scope of the service program and/or enhance its quality.

3. **Preference for Children and Youth Programs.** The Corporation will give preference to those programs addressing the needs of our Nation's children and youth, such as tutoring, mentoring, after-school and summer programs, and immunization. Especially important are efforts designed to involve children and youth being served in performing service themselves, not simply the implementation of programs designed to serve them.

4. **Preference for identified models.** Although the Corporation will consider all model program proposals, the Corporation will give preference to the models identified in this announcement.

Selection Process

The Corporation will judge proposals with a process that includes review by outside experts, staff review and recommendations, and final decisions by the Corporation Board. The Corporation will enter into negotiations with potentially successful applicants in a manner that may require significant modifications to original proposals. Awards are contingent on successful completion of negotiations. The number of applications approved, the number of education awards provided to approved programs, and the duration of approved programs are subject to the availability of funds and education awards.

Dated: August 28, 1996.

Shirley Segawa,

Managing Director for Planning, Corporation for National Service.

[FR Doc. 96-22449 Filed 9-3-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8030-09-0

Availability of Funds for Technical and Administrative Support for the National Service Scholarship Program

AGENCY: Corporation for National and Community Service.

ACTION: Notice of availability of funds.

SUMMARY: The Corporation for National Service (the Corporation) announces the availability of up to \$250,000 to provide technical and administrative support for

a new National Service Scholarship Program to recognize high school juniors and seniors engaged in outstanding community service. Students selected for recognition will receive locally-funded scholarships, matched or supplemented with federal funds provided by the Corporation. Of the National Service Scholars, a small number selected at the State level will receive special recognition and larger scholarships, and an even smaller number selected at the national level will receive special recognition and still larger scholarships. The Corporation's goal in this effort is to highlight the outstanding community service performed by high school students across the country, to recognize the particularly noteworthy service accomplishments of outstanding young individuals, and to assist those individuals in pursuing higher education.

As part of this effort, the Corporation is interested in selecting an organization to provide administrative and technical support related to this program. The successful applicant will assist in the design of the program, conduct outreach and promote the program, solicit input from interested nonprofit organizations with relevant expertise, work with local nonprofits and other organizations to carry out the program, and provide the administrative and technical support necessary to accomplish the objectives described above.

DATES: The deadline for submission of applications is October 15, 1996.

Applications must be received by the Corporation no later than 3:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on that date.

ADDRESSES: Applications must be addressed to: Corporation for National Service, 1201 New York Avenue NW, Ninth Floor, Washington, DC 20525. Attention: Simon G. Woodard. Applications may not be submitted by facsimile.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, contact Simon G. Woodard at (202) 606-5000, ext. 114. This notice may be requested in an alternative format for the visually impaired by calling (202) 606-5000, ext. 260. The Corporation's T.D.D. number is (202) 565-2799.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Corporation is a federal government corporation that encourages Americans of all ages and backgrounds to engage in community-based service. This service addresses the nation's educational, public safety, environmental and other human needs

to achieve direct and demonstrable results. In doing so, the Corporation fosters civic responsibility, strengthens the ties that bind us together as a people, and provides educational opportunity for those who make a substantial commitment to service.

Pursuant to the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 12501, et seq. (the Act), the Corporation may "support innovative and model programs." Under this authority, the Corporation intends to conduct a National Service Scholarship Program that will recognize high school juniors/seniors for outstanding service in their communities and provide modest scholarship support in recognition of such service.

Through this notice, the Corporation invites proposals from interested applicants to design and implement the program. An outline of the program, and the expectations of performance are provided below.

Purpose and Potential Design of the National Service Scholarship Program

The purpose of this program is to highlight the outstanding community service performed by high school students across the country, to recognize the particularly noteworthy service accomplishments of outstanding young individuals, and to assist those individuals in pursuing higher education.

The Corporation anticipates that the final design of this program will come from a collaboration involving the organization selected under this notice, an independent panel of experts in the field, and State and local stakeholders. The Corporation expects that the national service scholarship program will be implemented by local schools and communities across the country according to guidelines and procedures they will establish, consistent with the following general guidelines:

(1) The volunteer activities of the high school junior/senior should demonstrate effort over a sustained period of no less than one year, and should have a significant impact in meeting the needs of the local community.

(2) The awarding of the scholarship should be made by a local organization in recognition of the individual's community service and in accordance with procedures that are equitable and provide the opportunity for consideration of all eligible candidates.

(3) It may be connected with service learning programs of the school district.

(4) The selection process should be strictly non-partisan and non-political.

46628

Federal Register / Vol. 61, No. 172 / Wednesday, September 4, 1996 / Notices

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**Revision of the AmeriCorps*VISTA Project Pre-Application Inquiry, Project Application and Project Progress Report Forms****AGENCY:** Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).**ACTION:** Notice of 30-day OMB Review of Project Application and Project Progress Report Forms.

SUMMARY: On June 14, 1996, AmeriCorps*VISTA announced a 60-day review and comment ending on August 13, 1996, during which project sponsors and the public were encouraged to submit comments suggesting revisions to the AmeriCorps*VISTA Pre-Application Inquiry, CNCS 3045-0042 (formerly form A-1421), Project Application and Grant Application CNCS 3045-0038 (formerly forms 1421 and 1421-B), Project Progress Report forms (CNCS 3045-0042, and Project Progress Report, CNCS-3045-0033 (formerly form 1433).

The Pre-Application Inquiry and Project Application were submitted by prospective grantees to apply for, or renew sponsorship of projects under the AmeriCorps*VISTA Program. Completion of the application is required to obtain or retain sponsorship and to refund the continuation of projects. The Project Progress Report is submitted by project sponsors to periodically report on activities listed in an approved application.

In the June 14 announcements, comments were invited on (1) whether the forms collect information sufficient to meet operational management, planning and reporting needs of the AmeriCorps*VISTA program; (2) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collected (3) accuracy of Corporation estimates of reporting burden; and (4) ways to further reduce the reporting burden.

No comments were received.

AmeriCorps*VISTA is requesting extension of the authorization to use the revised Project Application Part A and Part B (new title of the combined Pre-Application Inquiry and Project Application) and the Project Progress Report.

DATES: AmeriCorps*VISTA and the Office of Management and Budget will consider written comments on the Project Application and Project Progress Report and record keeping requirements which are received within 30 days from the date of publication.

ADDRESSES: David Gurr, Corporation for National Service, 1201 New York Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20525.

Estimated Annual Reporting Burden: 13,500 hours (900 annual respondents at an average of 15 hours per respondent) for the Project Application. 10,800 hours (900 respondents at an average of 3 hours, submitted 4 times each year).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: David Gurr (202) 606-5000, extension 212.

*This document will be made available in alternate format upon request. TDD (202) 606-5256.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY: National Service Trust Act of 1993.

Dated: August 29, 1996.

Larry Bevan,

Program and Field Support Manager,
AmeriCorps*VISTA.

[FR Doc. 96-22519 Filed 9-3-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6050-28-M

Availability of Education Awards under the AmeriCorps Education Awards Program

AGENCY: Corporation for National and Community Service.

ACTION: Notice of availability of education awards.

SUMMARY: The Corporation for National Service (The Corporation) seeks to expand opportunities for individuals to serve as AmeriCorps Members and earn educational benefits, broaden the network of national service programs and strategies, and increase the number of communities joining with AmeriCorps to better meet their education, public safety, environmental, and other human needs.

Accordingly, the Corporation announces the availability of up to 5,000 education awards from the National Service Trust (the Trust) through a simplified application process for community service programs that (1) Can support most or all of the AmeriCorps Member and program costs from sources other than the Corporation; (2) meet certain AmeriCorps program requirements; and (3) are judged to be high quality according to Corporation criteria, as highlighted below and set forth in the application materials. The education awards being made available may be earned by AmeriCorps Members successfully completing Full-time or Part-time terms in a community service program approved through this application process.

While programs supported under this Notice should be similar to other AmeriCorps*State and *National

programs to maintain the integrity of the AmeriCorps national service network, the Corporation is modifying certain AmeriCorps requirements and permitting programs greater management and operating flexibility. In addition, the Corporation will consider requests for up to \$1,000 per full-time Member (pro-rated for a part-time Member) to manage these programs.

Potential program sponsors eligible to apply under this Notice include national nonprofit organizations, multi-state collaborations, state commissions for national and community service, institutions for higher education, and state education agencies. Other applicants may apply through state commissions, provided they meet criteria established by the state commission.

DATES: Applications may be obtained on or after September 4, 1996. For applications received by October 31, 1996, we anticipate making decisions by November 30, 1996. For applications received by February 28, 1997, we anticipate making decisions by March 31, 1997. For applications received by June 30, 1997, we anticipate making decisions by July 31, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Application materials may be obtained from, and must be submitted to, the following address: AmeriCorps Education Awards Program, Corporation for National Service, 1201 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20525. They may also be requested by telephone, at 202/606-5000, ext. 260, or (TDD) 202/565-2700. This notice may be requested in an alternative format for the visually impaired.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: For further information about this program, contact the Corporation for National Service, Hank Oltmann at 202/606-5000, ext. 417, or (TDD) 202/565-2700.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

The Corporation is a federal government corporation that engages Americans of all ages and backgrounds in community-based service. This service addresses the nation's education, public safety, environmental, or other human needs to achieve direct and demonstrable results. In doing so, the Corporation fosters civic responsibility, strengthens the ties that bind us together as a people, and provides educational opportunity for those who make a substantial commitment to service.

Pursuant to the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as

capacity to manage a high quality program. The proposal should evidence strong community support, and have a demonstrable impact on the community being served, together with the capacity to document that impact.

2. **Program Growth.** If the applicant currently sponsors an AmeriCorps project or another service project, there must be evidence that the availability of education awards will increase the size and scope of the service program and/or enhance its quality.

3. **Preference for Children and Youth Programs.** The Corporation will give preference to those programs addressing the needs of our Nation's children and youth, such as tutoring, mentoring, after-school and summer programs, and immunization. Especially important are efforts designed to involve children and youth being served in performing service themselves, not simply the implementation of programs designed to serve them.

4. **Preference for identified models.** Although the Corporation will consider all model program proposals, the Corporation will give preference to the models identified in this announcement.

Selection Process

The Corporation will judge proposals with a process that includes review by outside experts, staff review and recommendations, and final decisions by the Corporation Board. The Corporation will enter into negotiations with potentially successful applicants in a manner that may require significant modifications to original proposals. Awards are contingent on successful completion of negotiations. The number of applications approved, the number of education awards provided to approved programs, and the duration of approved programs are subject to the availability of funds and education awards.

Dated: August 28, 1996.

Shirley Sagawa,

Managing Director for Planning, Corporation for National Service.

[FR Doc. 96-22449 Filed 9-3-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8030-28-P

Availability of Funds for Technical and Administrative Support for the National Service Scholarship Program

AGENCY: Corporation for National and Community Service.

ACTION: Notice of availability of funds.

SUMMARY: The Corporation for National Service (the Corporation) announces the availability of up to \$250,000 to provide technical and administrative support for

a new National Service Scholarship Program to recognize high school juniors and seniors engaged in outstanding community service. Students selected for recognition will receive locally-funded scholarships, matched or supplemented with federal funds provided by the Corporation. Of the National Service Scholars, a small number selected at the State level will receive special recognition and larger scholarships, and an even smaller number selected at the national level will receive special recognition and still larger scholarships. The Corporation's goal in this effort is to highlight the outstanding community service performed by high school students across the country, to recognize the particularly noteworthy service accomplishments of outstanding young individuals, and to assist those individuals in pursuing higher education.

As part of this effort, the Corporation is interested in selecting an organization to provide administrative and technical support related to this program. The successful applicant will assist in the design of the program, conduct outreach and promote the program, solicit input from interested nonprofit organizations with relevant expertise, work with local nonprofits and other organizations to carry out the program, and provide the administrative and technical support necessary to accomplish the objectives described above.

DATES: The deadline for submission of applications is October 15, 1996.

Applications must be received by the Corporation no later than 3:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on that date.

ADDRESSES: Applications must be addressed to: Corporation for National Service, 1201 New York Avenue NW, Ninth Floor, Washington, DC 20525. Attention: Simon G. Woodard. Applications may not be submitted by facsimile.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, contact Simon G. Woodard at (202) 606-5000, ext. 114. This notice may be requested in an alternative format for the visually impaired by calling (202) 606-5000, ext. 260. The Corporation's T.D.D. number is (202) 565-2799.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Corporation is a federal government corporation that encourages Americans of all ages and backgrounds to engage in community-based service. This service addresses the nation's educational, public safety, environmental and other human needs

to achieve direct and demonstrable results. In doing so, the Corporation fosters civic responsibility, strengthens the ties that bind us together as a people, and provides educational opportunity for those who make a substantial commitment to service.

Pursuant to the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 12501, et seq. (the Act), the Corporation may "support innovative and model programs." Under this authority, the Corporation intends to conduct a National Service Scholarship Program that will recognize high school juniors/seniors for outstanding service in their communities and provide modest scholarship support in recognition of such service.

Through this notice, the Corporation invites proposals from interested applicants to design and implement the program. An outline of the program, and the expectations of performance are provided below.

Purpose and Potential Design of the National Service Scholarship Program

The purpose of this program is to highlight the outstanding community service performed by high school students across the country, to recognize the particularly noteworthy service accomplishments of outstanding young individuals, and to assist those individuals in pursuing higher education.

The Corporation anticipates that the final design of this program will come from a collaboration involving the organization selected under this notice, an independent panel of experts in the field, and State and local stakeholders. The Corporation expects that the national service scholarship program will be implemented by local schools and communities across the country according to guidelines and procedures they will establish, consistent with the following general guidelines:

(1) The volunteer activities of the high school junior/senior should demonstrate effort over a sustained period of no less than one year, and should have a significant impact in meeting the needs of the local community.

(2) The awarding of the scholarship should be made by a local organization in recognition of the individual's community service and in accordance with procedures that are equitable and provide the opportunity for consideration of all eligible candidates.

(3) It may be connected with service learning programs of the school district.

(4) The selection process should be strictly non-partisan and non-political.

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Member's educational level, work experience, or economic background. In recruiting and placing their Members, programs must not displace any employee or position, or otherwise violate the non-displacement provisions of the Corporation's regulations, which are published at 45 CFR Sec. 2540.100(f).

In addition, programs should strive to build strong communities by engaging diverse Members, community volunteers and staff in service activities and by encouraging mutual understanding and cooperation. Programs should actively seek to include Members and staff from the communities in which projects are conducted, as well as individuals of different races and ethnicities, ages, education levels, socioeconomic backgrounds, both men and women, and individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities.

Programs must provide Members with the training, skills, and knowledge necessary to perform the tasks required in their respective projects. In addition, programs are encouraged to help participants who have not completed their secondary education to earn the equivalent of a high school diploma.

Member Benefits

The Corporation will not set a minimum living allowance for full-time Members (which, for current AmeriCorps programs, is \$7,945 per year) under the AmeriCorps Education Award Program. The maximum living allowance for full-time AmeriCorps Members under this program is \$10,000 per year. Any living allowance for a part-time Member may not exceed a prorated share of a maximum of \$10,000 per year on a full-time basis. This maximum may be waived by the Corporation, upon request, for certain professional corps and similar programs.

Health care and child care are not required under the AmeriCorps Education Award Program, but may be offered by the local program which is responsible for all Member benefits.

Programs must provide reasonable accommodation, including auxiliary aids and services, based on the individualized need of a Member who is a qualified individual with a disability. Programs must also establish and maintain a procedure for receiving and resolving grievances from participants and other interested individuals concerning the program.

Eligibility for the Education Award

Members who successfully complete full-time or part-time terms of service

are eligible for education awards for each of up to two terms of service. Full-time Members must serve at least 1700 hours during a period of not less than nine months and not more than a year. Part-time Members must generally serve at least 900 hours during a period of not more than two years. Members may also serve in approved reduced part-time programs (such as summer programs or other programs requiring less than 900 hours), with education awards prorated to the number of hours served.

Under the AmeriCorps Education Awards Program, the Corporation will not accept proposals for part-time service of more than two years. Full-time education awards are \$4,725 and part-time education awards are \$2,362.50.

Use of Education Award

The education award may be used only for specific educational purposes: (1) To repay a Member's qualified loans; or (2) towards the cost of a Member's attendance at a qualified institution of higher education or approved School-to-Work program. The education award is not transferable to anyone other than the Member. The award must be paid directly to the loan holder or the educational institution. Regulations governing AmeriCorps education awards are published at 45 CFR Sec. 2525-2529.

Prohibited Service

Prohibited activities may not be performed by Members in the course of their duties, at the request of program staff, or in a manner that would associate the activities with the national service program or the Corporation. However, Members are free to engage in such activities on their own initiative, on their own time, and at their own expense. These activities include:

- (1) any effort to influence legislation, as defined under Sec. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. Sec. 501);
- (2) organizing or engaging in protests, petitions, boycotts, or strikes;
- (3) assisting, promoting, or deterring union organizing;
- (4) impairing existing contracts for services or collective bargaining agreements;
- (5) engaging in partisan political activities, or other activities designed to influence the outcome of an election to any public office;
- (6) participating in, or endorsing, events or activities which are likely to include advocacy for or against political parties, political platforms, political candidates, proposed legislation, or elected officials;

(7) engaging in religious instruction, conducting worship services, providing instruction as part of a program that includes mandatory religious education or worship, constructing or operating facilities primarily or inherently devoted to religious instruction or worship, or engaging in any form of religious proselytization; and providing a direct benefit to (a) A business organized for profit, (b) a labor union, (c) a partisan political organization, (d) a nonprofit organization that fails to comply with the restrictions contained in Sec. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or (e) an organization engaged in the religious activities described in paragraph (6) above, unless Corporation assistance is not used to support those religious activities.

Eligible Applicants

State Commissions, national non-profit organizations proposing to operate in more than one state, multi-state collaborations, institutions of higher education, and state education agencies may apply directly to the Corporation.

Local non-profit organizations, State and local units of government (other than state education agencies), other state-wide programs, and programs operating only within the state must apply through respective State Commissions on National and Community Service. Interested applicants should first contact their respective Commissions.

Pursuant to the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, an organization described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(4), which engages in lobbying activities is not eligible to apply, serve as a host site for Member placements, or act in any type of supervisory role in the program.

This Notice does not apply to organizations interested in applying to become AmeriCorps*VISTA cost-share projects. Such organizations should contact their respective State Office of the Corporation for National Service.

Criteria for the Selection of Programs

The Corporation will employ the following criteria in the review of proposals under this initiative:

1. Program Quality. A proposal must demonstrate the applicant's capacity to establish clear and specific objectives to meet compelling community needs, design meaningful service activities based on these needs, and recruit, select, train and manage AmeriCorps Members to carry out these needs. The proposal should demonstrate the applicant's organizational and staff

amended, 42 U.S.C. 12501, *et seq.* (the Act), the Corporation may "support innovative and model programs." 42 U.S.C. Sec. 12653(b). In addition, an individual can receive an education award from the National Service Trust if, among other things, the individual "successfully completes the required term of service . . . in an approved national service position." 42 U.S.C. 12602. The Act defines an approved national service position to include six specific service positions and "such other national service positions as the Corporation considers to be appropriate." 42 U.S.C. 12573.

Although AmeriCorps Education Award programs should be similar to existing AmeriCorps programs to maintain the integrity of the AmeriCorps national service network, the Corporation recognizes that some modifications to program and administrative requirements are appropriate. Program, grant, and administrative requirements are set forth in the application guidelines.

Program Eligibility and Design

The Corporation will accept applications from eligible applicants proposing to sponsor a national service program that addresses the unmet education, public safety, environmental, and other human needs in the community served, and provides a direct and demonstrable benefit that is valued by the community. The Corporation is looking for high-quality programs that (1) "get things done" to meet local needs, (2) strengthen communities, and (3) develop Members. Programs must establish specific objectives for the program, which are subject to the Corporation's approval.

For this initiative, the Corporation seeks programs that will support most or all program and participant costs (other than education awards) through sources other than the Corporation. The Corporation will consider requests for up to \$1,000 per new full-time Member (pro-rated for a part-time Member) to manage the program. A request for funds in addition to the education awards should reflect the minimum support necessary to manage the program; should, in the case of existing service programs, reflect only the management costs related to adding new Members; may affect approval of the proposal due to lack of available funding; and will be the subject of negotiation between the applicant and the Corporation.

By "getting things done," programs will help their communities meet education, public safety, environmental, or other human needs through direct

and demonstrable service. Programs must be large enough to achieve a demonstrable impact on the community served. Accordingly, the Corporation expects programs to enroll a sufficient number of either full-time or part-time Members, regardless of whether they are placed individually or in teams, to produce a demonstrable impact. If the program uses part-time Members, the program must demonstrate that the service provided by individual Members will be sustained and ongoing, not merely episodic.

To strengthen communities, programs should engage a full range of local partners to build a self-sustaining commitment to service. Service projects should be designed, implemented, and evaluated with appropriate local input and consultation with representatives of the community served, including community-based agencies, foundations, businesses, local labor organizations representing employees of service sponsors, and local government.

To develop Members, programs should provide appropriate training, education, supervision, and support, and emphasize the ethic and skills needed for productive, active citizenship.

Programs must keep time and attendance records on all AmeriCorps Members to document their eligibility for the education award. Programs will be required to cooperate with the Corporation and its evaluators in all its monitoring and evaluation efforts. Semi-annual program progress reports will be required. Member enrollment, end-of-term, and other National Service Trust forms must be submitted in compliance with existing requirements.

Program Models

The Corporation intends to support a variety of models under this initiative. The following is a list of models for both part-time (including summer) and full-time programs the Corporation intends to support. Applicants are encouraged to propose additional models.

(1) School-based and community-based service programs, including youth corps. Potential projects include tutoring and mentoring younger children and leading them in service projects after school, on weekends, and during summer.

(2) College-based programs in which student AmeriCorps Members eligible for education awards act as part-time service-learning coordinators in local schools, or perform other service.

(3) Programs run by colleges in which institutions agree to provide (a) future scholarships to middle and secondary level students if they qualify for

admission, and (b) provide younger students with college student mentors, who are part-time AmeriCorps Members.

(4) Summer programs in which AmeriCorps Members organize service and other activities for children and youth.

(5) Joint initiatives between community organizations and private sector organizations in which full-time employees perform service in the community on their own time as AmeriCorps Members and receive a part-time education award.

(6) Before and after-school child care programs led by AmeriCorps Members funded by local communities.

(7) Full-time service programs run by religious organizations, youth corps, or other entities where expansion will be achieved by offering additional education awards.

(8) Fellowship programs in which individuals such as recent college or professional school graduates serve in public interest positions in their field of service for a year before seeking more permanent employment.

(9) Programs initiated by mayors and other local officials to integrate locally funded AmeriCorps Members into community-wide strategies to solve local problems; for example, a city or town with a shortage of supervised activities for middle-school students during summer months might design and fund a program for AmeriCorps Members to lead teams of youth in service activities.

Matching Funds Requirements

There is no matching funds requirement under the AmeriCorps Education Award Program.

Member Recruitment and Development

Programs must enroll Members to complete full-time (at least 1700 hours in a nine to twelve month period) or part-time (at least 900 hours over not more than two years or approved reduced part-time) terms of service.

Programs must select their Members in a non-partisan, non-political, and non-discriminatory manner. Members must be U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or lawful permanent resident aliens. Members must be at least 17 years old, except that out-of-school 16 year olds may participate in youth corps programs and programs for disadvantaged youth that address the need for housing and other community facilities in low-income areas.

Programs are encouraged to recruit Members who possess leadership potential and a commitment to the goals of national service, regardless of the



National Association of
Service & Conservation Corps

August 30, 1996

Chairman Slade Gorton
Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee

Chairman Ralph Regula
House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee

Dear Chairmen Gorton and Regula:

On behalf of youth corps programs in six states -- Washington, Oregon, Montana, California, Arizona, New Hampshire, and Minnesota -- that want to carry out important projects in our national forests, I write to urge you to reconsider the language now in Sec. 312 of the FY1997 Interior Appropriations bill, which requires the Department of Agriculture to submit a reprogramming request in order to support national service programs.

The National Association of Service and Conservation Corps (NASCC) wishes to point out that young people -- voting constituents -- in these states will suffer from a loss of opportunities if the spending ban holds, to a far greater degree than will the AmeriCorps program. Youth corps have entered into partnership plans with the Forest Service to provide job training, education, and service opportunities for young people. Staff of those youth corps face the difficult task of explaining why already-appropriated, modest federal resources cannot be used to conduct vitally needed projects to improve ecosystem health and provide more recreational options for the public.

At least four courses of action are open to the Interior Appropriations conferees, in descending order of preference:

- Remove or soften language in Section 312 (of H.R. 3662 and the draft Senate Appropriations Committee Report) which currently requires the Departments of Interior and/or Agriculture to follow appropriate reprogramming guidelines, as well as language which currently makes Interior agency support conditional upon a CNS appropriation in VA/HUD bill;
- Insert language in the conference report that clarifies the terms under which a request for reprogramming could succeed. USDA-Forest Service believed it was following such an approach when it filed a request last year, only to have its request rejected in the House;

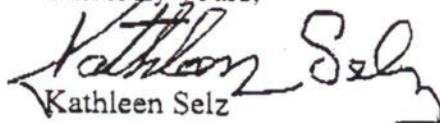
Letter to Chairmen Gorton and Regula, August 30, 1996

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- Insert managers' language clarifying that the ban on spending on AmeriCorps will in no way preclude the Forest Service and youth corps from entering into participating or challenge cost-share agreements to accomplish projects, nor from granting any youth corps a special use permit (similar to language inserted in the Conference Report on H.R. 1977 last year); or
- Have Congressional staff meet with Forest Service and youth corps representatives to devise other possible approaches to carrying out national service projects in the national forests.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter. Andrew Moore of my staff will follow up with your offices to discuss next steps.

Sincerely yours,


Kathleen Selz
Executive Director

cc: Senator Mark Hatfield
Members, Senate and House Interior Appropriations Subcommittees
Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Judd Gregg
Senator Patrick Leahy



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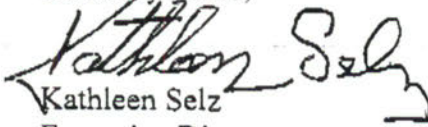
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Senator Patrick Leahy



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Bob Mitchell, Office of Congressman Rogers

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA /R

10 pages, including this cover

I have been dealing with Jeff Speaks on the AmeriCorps issue, but since he is on leave, I am forwarding this information to you. FYI, attached is updated information about our excellent AmeriCorps projects in Kentucky. As you can see from the print-outs, all the sites have achieved concrete, measurable results that significantly matter to the people of Kentucky.

Also attached is a two page memo specifically explaining the current status of the USDA AmeriCorps program and the compromise we are seeking to reach with Senator Bond.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 720-5746. Thank you for your consideration.

To: Bob Mitchell, Office of Congressman Rogers

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA *JB*

Subject: **Compromise to Allow USDA AmeriCorps Projects to Continue**

In both the 1994-1995 program year and the 1995-1996 program year, USDA sponsored community-based AmeriCorps projects throughout the country that fought hunger, protected the environment, and boosted rural community development. In both program years, the projects were supported by four sources of funding:

- 1) Corporation for National Service (CNS) funding paid for educational awards for AmeriCorps Members that successfully completed the program. *These funds were not transferred to USDA --- they were deposited into a trust fund that will later pay the lending and/or educational institutions of AmeriCorps graduates.*
- 2) CNS funds were granted from CNS to USDA, which USDA, in turn, sub-granted to local AmeriCorps projects --- principally to five anti-hunger projects.
- 3) USDA utilized money from the Department's own appropriated funds. USDA used funds from several agencies to support AmeriCorps projects that provided critical community services in areas directly related to the mission areas of those agencies.
- 4) State and local governments and private sector organizations provided matching funds. In the 1994-1995 program year, non-Federal sources provided \$1.7 million in funding to USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps projects.

However, in order to meet concerns raised by Senator Bond and others, CNS will no longer make grants of *operating* funds to Federal agencies. The legal result of this policy is that USDA funding source #2 --- operating funds transferred from CNS to USDA --- has been eliminated.

The few USDA AmeriCorps projects that were most dependent on this source of funding -- the five anti-hunger projects --- banded together as a consortium under the umbrella of the non-profit Congressional Hunger Center to successfully apply for funding directly from CNS.

The prohibition on the distribution of CNS operating funds (funding source #2) to Federal agencies does NOT restrict the ability of CNS to enter into cooperative agreements with Federal agencies, such as USDA, in order to provide non-financial assistance to AmeriCorps projects of Federal agencies and provide educational awards (funding source #1) to the AmeriCorps Members in those projects.

Thus, USDA still has the *legal* ability to use their own appropriated funds (source #3) and obtain state, local, and private matching funds (source #4) to support AmeriCorps projects.

Consequently, if CNS signs a cooperative agreement providing non-monetary assistance to USDA, AmeriCorps programs sponsored by the Department will still have the legal ability to continue --- and the graduates of those projects will still be able to obtain educational awards.

However, even though both CNS and USDA have the *legal* ability to ensure that USDA can continue to run an AmeriCorps program, the Department and CNS are seeking to reach a bi-partisan *policy* consensus with key leaders in Congress that USDA will do so. The USDA AmeriCorps program --- including all projects in Kentucky -- has been placed on hold pending such discussions.

USDA and CNS both want to be sure that Members of Congress do not have even the perception that USDA and CNS are violating Congressional intent by continuing to sponsor AmeriCorps projects.

Secretary of Agriculture Glickman is seeking to meet with Senator Bond as soon as possible to discuss this issue.

Some have suggested that full responsibility for funding and managing all USDA AmeriCorps projects to be transferred to state commissions on national service. Yet **most state commissions on national service have neither the available funds nor the technical expertise to continue these projects on their own. In addition, most state commissions do not have the ability to effectively place projects in many of the rural areas served by USDA AmeriCorps projects. While most state commissions strongly support the USDA AmeriCorps projects in their state, they do NOT want to take them over.** In reality, transferring these projects to state commissions would be, in effect, an unfunded mandate placed on the states.

One sensible compromise would be to allow state commissions to exercise a veto power over USDA AmeriCorps projects in their state. USDA would still be allowed to fund and manage projects in any state, with the exception of a state in which the state commission, appointed by the state's governor, disapproves of the project.

Such a compromise would meet Senator Bond's desire to place final control over our AmeriCorps projects under state governments, while allowing a wide range of quality projects to continue serving communities across America.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Marla Marvin

From: Joel Berg *JB*

3 pages, including this cover

FYI, letter from the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps about the Forest Service AmeriCorps program.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Marla Marvin, Office of Senator Murray

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

JB

4 pages, including this cover

Although, as you well know, the Forest Service was not able to sponsor AmeriCorps projects this fiscal year, other USDA agencies were able to sponsor excellent rural development, environmental, and anti-hunger AmeriCorps projects in Washington this year. As you can see from the attached print-out, all the sites have achieved concrete, measurable results.

Attached is a two page memo specifically updating the current status of the overall USDA AmeriCorps program and the compromise we are seeking to reach with Senator Bond. Of course, we still are also facing specific elimination of our Forest Service projects due to the continuing language in the Interior Appropriations Bill.

Any help you could continue to provide on both matters would be appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact me at 720-5746. Thank you for your consideration.

August 29, 1996

To: Marla Marvin, Office of Senator Murray

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA *JB*

Subject: **Compromise to Allow USDA AmeriCorps Projects to Continue**

In both the 1994-1995 program year and the 1995-1996 program year, USDA sponsored community-based AmeriCorps projects throughout the country that fought hunger, protected the environment, and boosted rural community development. In both program years, the projects were supported by four sources of funding:

- 1) Corporation for National Service (CNS) funding paid for educational awards for AmeriCorps Members that successfully completed the program. *These funds were not transferred to USDA --- they were deposited into a trust fund that will later pay the lending and/or educational institutions of AmeriCorps graduates.*
- 2) CNS funds were granted from CNS to USDA, which USDA, in turn, sub-granted to local AmeriCorps projects --- principally to five anti-hunger projects.
- 3) USDA utilized money from the Department's own appropriated funds. USDA used funds from several agencies to support AmeriCorps projects that provided critical community services in areas directly related to the mission areas of those agencies.
- 4) State and local governments and private sector organizations provided matching funds. In the 1994-1995 program year, non-Federal sources provided \$1.7 million in funding to USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps projects.

However, in order to meet concerns raised by Senator Bond and others, CNS will no longer make grants of *operating* funds to Federal agencies. The legal result of this policy is that USDA funding source #2 --- operating funds transferred from CNS to USDA --- has been eliminated.

The few USDA AmeriCorps projects that were most dependent on this source of funding -- the five anti-hunger projects --- banded together as a consortium under the umbrella of the non-profit Congressional Hunger Center to successfully apply for funding directly from CNS.

The prohibition on the distribution of CNS operating funds (funding source #2) to Federal agencies does NOT restrict the ability of CNS to enter into cooperative agreements with Federal agencies, such as USDA, in order to provide non-financial assistance to AmeriCorps projects of Federal agencies and provide educational awards (funding source #1) to the AmeriCorps Members in those projects.

Thus, USDA still has the *legal* ability to use their own appropriated funds (source #3) and obtain state, local, and private matching funds (source #4) to support AmeriCorps projects.

Consequently, if CNS signs a cooperative agreement providing non-monetary assistance to USDA, AmeriCorps programs sponsored by the Department will still have the legal ability to continue --- and the graduates of those projects will still be able to obtain educational awards.

However, even though both CNS and USDA have the *legal* ability to ensure that USDA can continue to run an AmeriCorps program, the Department and CNS are seeking to reach a bi-partisan *policy* consensus with key leaders in Congress that USDA will do so. The USDA AmeriCorps program --- including all projects in Washington State -- has been placed on hold pending such discussions.

USDA and CNS both want to be sure that Members of Congress do not have even the perception that USDA and CNS are violating Congressional intent by continuing to sponsor AmeriCorps projects.

Secretary of Agriculture Glickman is seeking to meet with Senator Bond as soon as possible to discuss this issue.

Some have suggested that full responsibility for funding and managing all USDA AmeriCorps projects to be transferred to state commissions on national service. Yet **most state commissions on national service have neither the available funds nor the technical expertise to continue these projects on their own. In addition, most state commissions do not have the ability to effectively place projects in many of the rural areas served by USDA AmeriCorps projects. While most state commissions strongly support the USDA AmeriCorps projects in their state, they do NOT want to take them over.** In reality, transferring these projects to state commissions would be, in effect, an unfunded mandate placed on the states.

One sensible compromise would be to allow state commissions to exercise a veto power over USDA AmeriCorps projects in their state. USDA would still be allowed to fund and manage projects in any state, with the exception of a state in which the state commission, appointed by the state's governor, disapproves of the project.

Such a compromise would meet Senator Bond's desire to place final control over our AmeriCorps projects under state governments, while allowing a wide range of quality projects to continue serving communities across America.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Robin Bowen, Office of Senator McConnell

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA *JB*

10 pages, including this cover

Attached is updated information about our excellent AmeriCorps projects in Kentucky. As you can see from the print-outs, all the sites have achieved concrete, measurable results that significantly matter to the people of Kentucky.

Also attached is a two page memo specifically explaining the current status of the USDA AmeriCorps program and the compromise we are seeking to reach with Senator Bond.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 720-5746. Thank you for your consideration.

To: Robin Bowen, Office of Senator McConnell

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA JB

Subject: **Compromise to Allow USDA AmeriCorps Projects to Continue**

In both the 1994-1995 program year and the 1995-1996 program year, USDA sponsored community-based AmeriCorps projects throughout the country that fought hunger, protected the environment, and boosted rural community development. In both program years, the projects were supported by four sources of funding:

- 1) Corporation for National Service (CNS) funding paid for educational awards for AmeriCorps Members that successfully completed the program. *These funds were not transferred to USDA* --- they were deposited into a trust fund that will later pay the lending and/or educational institutions of AmeriCorps graduates.
- 2) CNS funds were granted from CNS to USDA, which USDA, in turn, sub-granted to local AmeriCorps projects --- principally to five anti-hunger projects.
- 3) USDA utilized money from the Department's own appropriated funds. USDA used funds from several agencies to support AmeriCorps projects that provided critical community services in areas directly related to the mission areas of those agencies.
- 4) State and local governments and private sector organizations provided matching funds. In the 1994-1995 program year, non-Federal sources provided \$1.7 million in funding to USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps projects.

However, in order to meet concerns raised by Senator Bond and others, CNS will no longer make grants of *operating* funds to Federal agencies. The legal result of this policy is that USDA funding source #2 --- operating funds transferred from CNS to USDA --- has been eliminated.

The few USDA AmeriCorps projects that were most dependent on this source of funding -- the five anti-hunger projects --- banded together as a consortium under the umbrella of the non-profit Congressional Hunger Center to successfully apply for funding directly from CNS.

The prohibition on the distribution of CNS operating funds (funding source #2) to Federal agencies does NOT restrict the ability of CNS to enter into cooperative agreements with Federal agencies, such as USDA, in order to provide non-financial assistance to AmeriCorps projects of Federal agencies and provide educational awards (funding source #1) to the AmeriCorps Members in those projects.

Thus, USDA still has the *legal* ability to use their own appropriated funds (source #3) and obtain state, local, and private matching funds (source #4) to support AmeriCorps projects.

Consequently, if CNS signs a cooperative agreement providing non-monetary assistance to USDA, AmeriCorps programs sponsored by the Department will still have the legal ability to continue --- and the graduates of those projects will still be able to obtain educational awards.

However, even though both CNS and USDA have the *legal* ability to ensure that USDA can continue to run an AmeriCorps program, the Department and CNS are seeking to reach a bi-partisan *policy* consensus with key leaders in Congress that USDA will do so. The USDA AmeriCorps program --- including all projects in Kentucky -- has been placed on hold pending such discussions.

USDA and CNS both want to be sure that Members of Congress do not have even the perception that USDA and CNS are violating Congressional intent by continuing to sponsor AmeriCorps projects.

Secretary of Agriculture Glickman is seeking to meet with Senator Bond as soon as possible to discuss this issue.

Some have suggested that full responsibility for funding and managing all USDA AmeriCorps projects to be transferred to state commissions on national service. Yet **most state commissions on national service have neither the available funds nor the technical expertise to continue these projects on their own. In addition, most state commissions do not have the ability to effectively place projects in many of the rural areas served by USDA AmeriCorps projects. While most state commissions strongly support the USDA AmeriCorps projects in their state, they do NOT want to take them over.** In reality, transferring these projects to state commissions would be, in effect, an unfunded mandate placed on the states.

One sensible compromise would be to allow state commissions to exercise a veto power over USDA AmeriCorps projects in their state. USDA would still be allowed to fund and manage projects in any state, with the exception of a state in which the state commission, appointed by the state's governor, disapproves of the project.

Such a compromise would meet Senator Bond's desire to place final control over our AmeriCorps projects under state governments, while allowing a wide range of quality projects to continue serving communities across America.



To: Kate Lambrew, Office of Senator Cohen

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA JB

11 pages, including this cover

Per our discussion, attached is information about our excellent AmeriCorps projects in Maine. As you can see from the print-outs, all the sites have achieved concrete, measurable results that significantly matter to the people of Maine.

Also attached is a two page memo specifically explaining the current status of the USDA AmeriCorps program and the compromise we are seeking to reach with Senator Bond.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 720-5746. Thank you for your consideration.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Jodi Smith, Office of Congressman Bereuter

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA *JB*

5 pages, including this cover

As you know, USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps Members recently received wide-spread community praise for their disaster-relief efforts in Nebraska. However, such efforts are only a small part of their overall duties. As the attached print-outs demonstrate, USDA AmeriCorps Members have achieved concrete, measurable results in critical service projects in Nebraska.

FYI, attached is a two page memo updating the current status of the overall USDA AmeriCorps program and the compromise we are seeking to reach with Senator Bond. Any help your office could provide on this matter would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 720-5746. Thank you for your consideration.

September 3, 1996

To: Jodi Smith, Office of Congressman Bereuter

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA 

Subject: **Compromise to Allow USDA AmeriCorps Projects to Continue**

In both the 1994-1995 program year and the 1995-1996 program year, USDA sponsored community-based AmeriCorps projects throughout the country that fought hunger, protected the environment, and boosted rural community development. In both program years, the projects were supported by four sources of funding:

- 1) Corporation for National Service (CNS) funding paid for educational awards for AmeriCorps Members that successfully completed the program. *These funds were not transferred to USDA ---* they were deposited into a trust fund that will later pay the lending and/or educational institutions of AmeriCorps graduates.
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- 4) State and local governments and private sector organizations provided matching funds. In the 1994-1995 program year, non-Federal sources provided \$1.7 million in funding to USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps projects.

However, in order to meet concerns raised by Senator Bond and others, CNS will no longer make grants of *operating* funds to Federal agencies. The legal result of this policy is that USDA funding source #2 --- operating funds transferred from CNS to USDA --- has been eliminated.

The few USDA AmeriCorps projects that were most dependent on this source of funding -- the five anti-hunger projects --- banded together as a consortium under the umbrella of the non-profit Congressional Hunger Center to successfully apply for funding directly from CNS.

The prohibition on the distribution of CNS operating funds (funding source #2) to Federal agencies does NOT restrict the ability of CNS to enter into cooperative agreements with Federal agencies, such as USDA, in order to provide non-financial assistance to AmeriCorps projects of Federal agencies and provide educational awards (funding source #1) to the AmeriCorps Members in those projects.

Thus, USDA still has the *legal* ability to use their own appropriated funds (source #3) and obtain state, local, and private matching funds (source #4) to support AmeriCorps projects.

Consequently, if CNS signs a cooperative agreement providing non-monetary assistance to USDA, AmeriCorps programs sponsored by the Department will still have the legal ability to continue --- and the graduates of those projects will still be able to obtain educational awards.

Thus, new legislation and/or additional appropriations are NOT required to continue the USDA AmeriCorps program. However, even though both CNS and USDA have both the legal and financial ability to ensure that USDA can continue to run an AmeriCorps program, the Department and CNS are seeking to reach a bi-partisan *policy* consensus with key leaders in Congress that USDA will do so. USDA and CNS are seeking at least tacit approval from Senator Christopher (Kit) Bond, Chairperson of the Senate Appropriations Sub-Committee which funds CNS, on this issue.

The USDA AmeriCorps program --- including all projects in Nebraska -- has been placed on hold pending such discussions.

USDA and CNS both want to be sure that Members of Congress do not have even the perception that USDA and CNS are violating Congressional intent by continuing to sponsor AmeriCorps projects.

Secretary of Agriculture Glickman is seeking to meet with Senator Bond as soon as possible to discuss this issue.

Some have suggested that full responsibility for funding and managing all USDA AmeriCorps projects to be transferred to state commissions on national service. Yet **most state commissions on national service have neither the available funds nor the technical expertise to continue these projects on their own. In addition, most state commissions do not have the ability to effectively place projects in many of the rural areas served by USDA AmeriCorps projects. While most state commissions strongly support the USDA AmeriCorps projects in their state, they do NOT want to take them over.** In reality, transferring these projects to state commissions would be, in effect, an unfunded mandate placed on the states.

One sensible compromise would be to allow state commissions to exercise a veto power over USDA AmeriCorps projects in their state. USDA would still be allowed to fund and manage projects in any state, with the exception of a state in which the state commission, appointed by the state's governor, disapproves of the project.

Such a compromise would meet Senator Bond's desire to place final control over our AmeriCorps projects under state governments, while allowing a wide range of quality projects to continue serving communities across America.



September 3, 1996

Dave Poletto
 Senator D'Amato's Office
 4200 O'Brien Federal Building
 Albany, NY 12207

Gerald D. Jennings

Mayor
 City of Albany

Dear Dave:

Charles H. Shoudy

Commissioner
 Department of
 Human Resources

I hope you have had a great summer. I'm writing to tell you about a nationwide summer project that our corps had the pleasure to be associated with, and which has enjoyed wide bipartisan support across the country: the USDA AmeriCorps Summer of Gleaning.

Paul S. Winkeller

Executive Director
 Albany Service Corps

You may have heard about this project during the National Week of Food Recovery in August (see attached press clips). The project continues locally until the end of September, and our hope is to sustain anti-hunger work on a year round basis as part of the routine activities of the Albany Service Corps.

Perhaps you, and the Senator if he is in town, would like to pay a visit to one or more of the farmers within the local seven county region from which we have been recovering food, to get a first hand sense of the accomplishments and extreme cost-effectiveness of this national service endeavor!

I am also certain that officials from the USDA AmeriCorps program would be delighted to brief the Senator and his staff about their work helping to feed hungry citizens all across the country.

Thanks for your continued interest. Hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Paul Winkeller,
 Executive Director

cc: Joel Berg, USDA AmeriCorps Coordinator, Washington, D.C.



August 4, 1995

To: Amy Rainone

From: Joel Berg

15 pages, including this cover

Per our conversation, attached is the following information about USDA AmeriCorps projects on Forrester Service land:

- 1) List of USDA projects this year. I have starred the Forrester Service sites. The first column has the Forest name, and then the state. The second column has the number of Members in the program at each site. As you can read, our biggest Forrester Service environmental projects are in California, Washington, Oregon, Arizona, Mississippi, Vermont, and New Hampshire. States with smaller rural development projects funded by the Forest Service are in Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, South Carolina, Arkansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado.
- 2) List of Republicans who voted to create AmeriCorps in 1993.
- 3) Two page cost/benefit analysis of Forrester Service AmeriCorps projects.
- 4) Two page description of the service performed by Forest Service AmeriCorps projects, as of the end of the second quarter of this year.
- 5) Three letters signed by Senator Hatfield praising the Northwest service Academy -- an AmeriCorps program run with a large amount of Forest Service Funds.
- 6) A letter from the Northwest Service Academy to Hatfield, explaining how the project would suffer if Interior Appropriations language went through.

State	Mem F_Name	Mem MI	Mem L_Name	Senate/ Rm	House #	ADDR Street	ADDR City	ADDR State	Zip Code	Stf F_Name	Sft MI	Stf L_Name	Phone Number	FAX	District
AR	Dale	L.	Bumpers	S	229	Dirksen Building	Washington	DC	20510	Lisy		Brown	202-224-4843		00
AR	David		Pryor	S	267	Russell Building	Washington	DC	20510	Justin		Johnson	202-224-2353		
AZ	John		McCain	S	241	Russell Building	Washington	DC	20510	Andrew	I.	Batavia	202-224-2235		
CA	Barbara		Boxer	S	112	Hart Building	Washington	DC	20510	Emily		Selt	202-224-3553		00
CA	Dianne		Feinstein	S	331	Hart Building	Washington	DC	20510	Kathryn	F.	Lacey	202-224-3841		00
CA	Lynn		Woolsey	H						Grant		Davis	415-507-9554		
IL	Cardiss		Collins	H		230S.Dearborn#3880	Chicago	IL	60604	J. Robert		Kettlewell	312-3535754		07
IL	Paul		Simon	S		230 S. Dearborn	Chicago	IL	60604	Nancy		Chen	312-353-4952		00
KS	Nancy		Kassebaum	S	302	Russell Building	Washington	DC	20510	Mary Elizabeth		Larson	202-224-4774		
KY	Wendell	H.	Ford	S	173A	Russell Building	Washington	DC	20510	Elizabeth		Fay	202-224-4343		
KY	Mitch		McConnell	S		1501 S Main Ste N	London	KY	40741	Ken		Upchurch	606-864-2026	6068642035	00
KY	Harold		Rogers	H		806 Hambley Blvd.	Pikeville	KY	41501	Jeff		Speaks	606-432-4388		05
LA	John		Breaux	S	516	Hart Building	Washington	DC	20510	H. Adam		Lawrence	202-224-4623		00
LA	John		Breaux	S	516	Hart Building	Washington	DC	20510	Jeff		Lewis	202-224-2005		00
MD	Barbara	A.	Mikulski	S		9658Baltimore#208	College Park	MD	20740	Asuntha	M.	Chiang	301-345-5517		00
MD	Barbara		Mikulski	S	134	Dirksen Building	Washington	DC	20510	Sally		Chadbourne	202-224-7231	2022244344	
ME	William	F.	Cohen	S	322	Hart Building	Washington	DC	20510	David	A.	Wilby	202-224-2523	202	00
ME	Olympia		Snowe	S	495	Russell Building	Washington	DC	20510	Jane		Calderwood	202-224-5344		
MI	Dick		Chrysler	H	721	N. Capitol, Ste. 3	Lansing	MI	48906	Scott		Rylko	517-484-1770	5174845575	
MN	Paul		Wellstone	S	717	Hart Building	Washington	DC	20510	Colin		McGinnis	202-224-5641		
MS	Thad		Cochran	S	326	Russell Building	Washington	DC	20510	Gregory		McGinity	202-224-6413		00
NC	Charles		Taylor	H	22	S.Pack Square	Asheville	NC	28801	Martha		Peterson	704-251-1988		
ND	Kent		Conrad	S	724	Hart Building	Washington	DC	20510	Robert	L.	Foust	202-224-2043		
NE	Bob		Kerrey	S	303	Hart Building	Washington	DC	20510	Patricia		Sedon	202-224-6551		
NH	Judd		Gregg	S	393	Russell Building	Washington	DC	20510	Rick		Murphy	202-224-3324		00
NH	Robert		Smith	S						Mark		Aldridge			
NJ	Frank		Lautenberg	S						Mitch		Warren			
NM	Jeff		Bingaman	S		119 E. Marcy	Santa Fe	NM	87501	Maria		Wolfe	505-766-3666		
NM	Jeff		Bingaman	S	703	Hart Building	Washington	DC	20510	Emily		Wertz	202-224-5521		
NM	Pete		Dominici	S	328	Hart	Washington	DC	20510	Brian		Jones	202-224-7074		
NM	Joe		Skeen	H		1065B S.Main Ste.A	Las Cruces	NM	88005	Donna	L.	McClanahan	505-527-1771		02

7/15/96

ron standard report

Patrick Atagi

Page 2

State	Mem F_Name	Mem MI	Mem L-Name	Senate/ Rm House #	ADDR Street	ADDR City	ADDR State	Zip Code	Stf F_Name	Sft MI	Stf L_Name	Phone Number	FAX	District
NM	Joe		Skeen	H	1065	B.South Main	Las Cruces	NM	88005	Dorothy	Thomas	505-527-1771		
OR	Mark		Hatfield	S	711	Hart Building	Washington	DC	20510	Sue	Hildick	202-224-3753	2022240276	
SC	James	E.	Clyburn	H		1703 Gervais St.	Columbia	SC	29201	Robert	M. Nance	803-799-1100		
SD	Tom		Daschle	S	509	Hart Building	Washington	DC	20510	Ace	Gallagher	202-224-2321		
TN	Fred		Thompson	S		Terminal Bldg.#103	Blountvile	TN	37617	W.T.(Tony)	DeVault	615-323-6217		00
UT	William	H.	Orton	H		51 SUniversity#317	Provo	UT	84606	John	F. Smith	801-379-2500		03
VA	Charles	S.	Robb	S	154	Russell Building	Washington	DC	20510	Eric	G. Falls	202-224-4024		00
VT	James	M.	Jeffords	S	513	Hart Building	Washington	DC	20510	Sherry	Kaiman	202-224-2962	2022281932	
VT	Patrick	J.	Leahy	S	433	Russell Building	Washington	DC	20510	Amy	Rainone	202-224-4242	2022243595	
WV	Robert	C.	Byrd	S	311	Hart Building	Washington	DC	20510	Sue	Masica	202-224-5271		

7, 19

Chrysler:

Mary Cline, Director of Constituent Services
721 North Capitol, Suite 3
Lansing, MI 48906
(517) 484-1770
fax *517) 484-5575

Scott Rylkco
Constituent service representative - same

Upton:

young guy

Hoesktra:

Jerry Kooiman

722-8386

Levin:

Young woman

Speak to Jackie Praker in DC

SDingell:

Older guy

AUG 8 - 1996

CITY OF PONCA
115 WEST THIRD STREET
PO BOX 465
PONCA, NEBRASKA 68770

PHONE: 402-755-4165
FAX 402-755-2618

August 7, 1996

Representative Doug Bereuter
2348 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Bereuter:

As you are aware, on the night of July 16, Ponca experienced a devastating flood. I spent most of the following day finding overnight homes for the 19 senior citizens who were evacuated from their apartment building the night before.

On Thursday morning, July 18, Bruce Blatchford - Dixon County Civil Defense Director - came into my office and asked if I could find someone to start going from house to house assessing damages. I immediately looked over at Mary Rose Backhaus, sitting at another desk in my office. She and Stephen Cook are Americorps workers under the sponsorship of USDA who have been at the Ponca site since last fall, working on solid waste issues. They were at Beatrice, helping with the clean-up there, a few weeks earlier.

Bruce had been studying his emergency manual and had a pretty good idea of the information they needed to obtain, even though at that time we had not had a great amount of contact with the Nebraska Civil Defense Office on this subject. Mary Rose and Linda Frahm, the janitor at the Dixon County Courthouse immediately "hit the streets". They waded through slimy mud, going door to door, talking to people, listening to people, encouraging people, laughing and crying and being grateful with the people who had experienced the flood.

On Friday Mary Rose and Linda worked on the assessments all day, along with Nadene Chavet, an Americorps/USDA worker at the Northeast Nebraska RC&D office in Plainview, who came to Ponca and worked with Peggy Greg, a local volunteer who wanted to help wherever she was needed.

On Saturday morning we had a community meeting with NEMA (the name change came on Friday!) and again, Mary Rose worked all day, along with Nadene, Carmen Shaffer (an Americorps/USDA worker at the Northeast Nebraska RC&D office in Plainview) and Bonnie Tyrrell (an Americorps/USDA worker at the North Central Nebraska RC&D office in Bassett), and Judy Lamprecht, another local volunteer.

Monday, July 22, NEMA came back to Ponca and started working with Dixon County, assessing their public damages. Kathy Davis worked in our office and Mary Rose, Nadene and Linda worked all day, both on the street and in the office. Even after the initial information was obtained, it had to be put on the required forms and they were constantly updating it as people came in with their lists of losses and damages and their property tax assessments.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Mary Rose and Linda constantly took telephone calls, made telephone calls and updated information, so that by Thursday when NEMA was ready to head back to Lincoln and start crunching figures, WE WERE READY! Our paperwork was accurate, consistent, in good order, and fairly complete because of the many hours these people put in on it.

I am not exaggerating when I say that it could not have been done without them. There is no way that my assistant and I could have done it. Most people in Ponca were helping families directly with mud, water and clean-up. I just do not know what we would have done without the Americorps people. Plus, they were fresh, they were understanding, they were cheerful, they were patient - all qualities that were wearing rather thin on the rest of us. Mary Rose worked till 5:30-6:00 most of those days and put in approximately 60 hours on the entire project. The four Americorps workers put in approximately 90 hours all together on the project.

I will be forever grateful that Mary Rose was here, in this office, at this time. And the fact that the network was in place and all the Americorps people were able to respond so quickly, was marvelous.

Last year I was not sure how I felt about Americorps. After attending the Americorps/USDA graduation ceremonies just this last Monday, I am convinced that it is a program that is accomplishing what it set out to do. The success rate of our Americorps/USDA people in Nebraska is great!

Sincerely,



Linda Kastning, Admin/Clerk/Treas
City of Ponca

cc. Senator J. James Exon
Senator Robert Kerrey

RESOLUTION #96-3

RESOLUTION THANKING DAMAGE ASSESSMENT
VOLUNTEERS DURING THE FLOOD OF JULY, 1996.

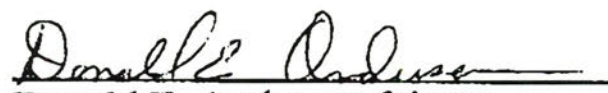
WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Ponca, Nebraska, have been advised that Americorps/USDA members Mary Rose Backhaus, Nadene Chavet, Carmen Shaffer and Bonnie Tyrrell, and local volunteers Linda Frahm, Peggy Greg and Judy Lamprecht did spend an appreciable amount of time going door-to-door within the flooded areas of Ponca, Nebraska, working with the people on assessing their flood damage, both to their structures and to their personal property, meeting with people in the City office, preparing the necessary paperwork, and cooperating with the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency personnel; and

WHEREAS, this would have been a formidable task for the City of Ponca staff;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Ponca, Nebraska, that they are highly appreciative of the help offered by the above volunteers and thank them mightily.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 31st day of July, 1996.

CITY OF PONCA, NEBRASKA


Donald B. Andersen, Mayor


Linda Kastning, City Clerk



KEY SENATE TARGETS FOR USDA AMERICORPS

SUPPORTERS AND POTENTIAL SUPPORTERS FOR OVERALL PROGRAM

(USDA AmeriCorps projects exist in all the states of the Senators listed below)

Republican Supporters:

Jim Jeffords (VT)
Olympia Snowe (ME)
William Cohen (ME)
Ben Nighthorse Campbell (CO)

Potential Republican Supporters:

Arlen Specter (PA)
Mitch McConnell (KY)
Nancy Kassebaum (KS)
Kay Bailey Hutchinson (TX)
Fred Thompson (TN)
Pete Domenici (NM)
Dan Coats (IN)
John Chafee (RI)
Ted Stevens (AK)
Conrad Burns (MO)
Larry Craig (ID)
Charles Grassley (IA)
Conrad Burns (MO)
Don Nickles (OK)
James Inhofe (OK)

Most Supportive Democrats:

Pat Leahy (VT)
Patty Murray (WA)
Chuck Robb (VA)
Ron Wyden (OR)
Tom Dacshle (SD)
Paul Wellstone (MN)
Diane Feinstein (CA)
Byron Dorgan (ND)
John Breaux (LA)
Barbara Boxer (CA)
Paul Sarbanes (MD)
David Pryor (AR)
Tom Harkin (IA)
Carl Levin (MI)
Jeff Bingaman (NM)
Herb Kohl (WI)
Russell Feingold (WI)

Key Wavering Democrats:

Barbara Mikulski (MD)
Robert Byrd (WV)

SENATE INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

(In order of seniority --- * next to Senators in whose states Forest Service projects were planned)

Republicans:

Slade Gorton, Chair (WA) *
Ted Stevens (AK)
Thad Cochran (MS) *
Pete Domenici (NM) *
Mark Hatfield (OR) *
Conrad Burns (MT) *
Robert Bennett (UT) *
Connie Mack (FL)

Democrats:

Robert Byrd, Ranking Member (WV) *
Bennett Johnston (LA) *
Pat Leahy (VT) *
Dale Bumpers (AR) *
Ernest Hollings (SC)
Harry Reid (NV)

To: Amy Rainone

From: Joel Berg

3 pages, including this cover

Per our discussion, document to send to Bond's office.

August 27, 1996

To: Amy Rainone, Office of Senator Leahy

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

Subject: **Compromise to Allow USDA AmeriCorps Projects to Continue**

In both the 1994-1995 program year and the 1995-1996 program year, USDA sponsored community-based AmeriCorps projects throughout the country that fought hunger, protected the environment, and boosted rural community development. In both program years, the projects were supported by four sources of funding:

- 1) Corporation for National Service (CNS) funding paid for educational awards for AmeriCorps Members that successfully completed the program. *These funds were not transferred to USDA* --- they were deposited into a trust fund that will later pay the lending and/or educational institutions of AmeriCorps graduates.
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However, in order to meet concerns raised by Senator Bond and others, CNS will no longer make grants of *operating* funds to Federal agencies. The legal result of this policy is that USDA funding source #2 --- operating funds transferred from CNS to USDA --- has been eliminated.

The few USDA AmeriCorps projects that were most dependent on this source of funding --- the five anti-hunger projects --- banded together as a consortium under the umbrella of the non-profit Congressional Hunger Center to successfully apply for funding directly from CNS.

The prohibition on the distribution of CNS operating funds (funding source #2) to Federal agencies does NOT restrict the ability of CNS to enter into cooperative agreements with Federal agencies, such as USDA, in order to provide non-financial assistance to AmeriCorps projects of Federal agencies and provide educational awards (funding source #1) to the AmeriCorps Members in those projects.

Thus, USDA still has the *legal* ability to use their own appropriated funds (source #3) and obtain state, local, and private matching funds (source #4) to support AmeriCorps projects.

Consequently, if CNS signs a cooperative agreement providing non-monetary assistance to USDA, AmeriCorps programs sponsored by the Department will still have the legal ability to continue --- and the graduates of those projects will still be able to obtain educational awards.

However, even though both CNS and USDA have the *legal* ability to ensure that USDA can continue to run an AmeriCorps program, the Department and CNS are seeking to reach a bi-partisan *policy* consensus with key leaders in Congress that USDA will do so. The USDA AmeriCorps program has been placed on hold pending such discussions.

USDA and CNS both want to be sure that Members of Congress do not have even the perception that USDA and CNS are violating Congressional intent by continuing to sponsor AmeriCorps projects.

Secretary of Agriculture Glickman is seeking to meet with Senator Bond as soon as possible to discuss this issue.

Some have suggested that full responsibility for funding and managing all USDA AmeriCorps projects to be transferred to state commissions on national service. Yet **most state commissions on national service have neither the available funds nor the technical expertise to continue these projects on their own. In addition, most state commissions do not have the ability to effectively place projects in many of the rural areas served by USDA AmeriCorps projects. While most state commissions strongly support the USDA AmeriCorps projects in their state, they do NOT want to take them over.** In reality, transferring these projects to state commissions would be, in effect, an unfunded mandate placed on the states.

One sensible compromise would be to allow state commissions to exercise a veto power over USDA AmeriCorps projects in their state. USDA would still be allowed to fund and manage projects in any state, with the exception of a state in which the state commission, appointed by the state's governor, disapproves of the project.

Such a compromise would meet Senator Bond's desire to place final control over our AmeriCorps projects under state governments, while allowing a wide range of quality projects to continue serving communities across America.

August 4, 1995

To: SujataTejwani

From: Liz Jones

15 pages, including this cover

Per our conversation, attached is the following information about USDA AmeriCorps projects on Forest Service land. On Monday I will send you specific information about our California projects.

- 1) List of USDA projects this year. I have starred the Forest Service sites. The first column has the Forest name, and then the state. The second column has the number of Members in the program at each site. As you can read, our biggest Forest Service environmental projects are in California, Washington, Oregon, Arizona, Mississippi, Vermont, and New Hampshire. States with smaller rural development projects funded by the Forest Service are in Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, South Carolina, Arkansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado.
 - 2) List of Republicans who voted to create AmeriCorps in 1993.
 - 3) Two page cost/benefit analysis of Forest Service AmeriCorps projects.
 - 4) Two page description of the service performed by Forest Service AmeriCorps projects, as of the end of the second quarter of this year.
 - 5) Three letters signed by Senator Hatfield praising the Northwest service Academy -- an AmeriCorps program run with a large amount of Forest Service Funds.
 - 6) A letter from the Northwest Service Academy to Hatfield, explaining how the project would suffer if Interior Appropriations language went through.
- ny



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Soil
Conservation
Service

Reader
Natural Resources
Conservation Service
5 Godfrey Drive
Orono, ME 04473

August 16, 1996

Honorable John E. Baldacci
House of Representatives
1740 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515-1902

Dear Congressman Baldacci:

This is in response to the your request for written information on two topics discussed with you while on the St. John Arcostock RC&D tour on August 15, 1996.

AmeriCorps Program

The attachment titled "FACT SHEET ON THE STATUS OF FUTURE USDA-SPONSORED AMERICORPS PROJECTS" explains the situation. If the agreement USDA is seeking as stated in the last paragraph of page 2 is not reached, Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service in Maine will not be able to continue sponsoring the 25 AmeriCorps members in our current program. Of the 100+ AmeriCorps participants in Maine, these 25 are the only ones working across the state on rural issues.

1996 Farm Bill

The 1996 Farm Bill authorizes the new Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). This program requires a process which starts with the local Soil and Water Conservation District hosting a local work group to assess natural resource needs and identify local priority areas (a geographic location, i.e. a watershed, a township) and priority resource concerns (i.e., water quality, animal waste management). The locally identified priorities are forwarded to the State Technical Committee. This Committee is composed of representatives of State and Federal agencies, environmental organizations, commodity groups and other appropriate groups interested in natural resource conservation. This Committee will then review all priority concerns submitted by local working groups and prioritize the proposals for the State.

The State proposals are then forwarded to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Regional Office for review and regional prioritization with proposals from the 12 East region states. The Regional Office then sends the proposals to the NRCS National Office where the National Interagency Committee will select priority areas and priority concerns to receive cost-share assistance to help resolve the identified resource concerns.



The Soil Conservation Service
is an agency of the
Department of Agriculture

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Concerns Expressed by Local People (mainly Soil and Water Conservation Districts):

1. Some areas in the state of Maine will not receive cost-share funds even though they have resource concerns which were not selected as priority this year (targeting of limited financial resources). They will have another opportunity in future years.
2. What was conceived as a locally-controlled program is in reality controlled at the national level.
3. Areas in Maine that do not receive funding for a priority area or concern will lose NRCS staff to those areas of the state that receive funding, including closing of some local offices. Staff will be needed to do the technical work to utilize the funds.

ANOTHER ISSUE IN WHICH YOU MAY BE INTERESTED

Maine is the most forested state in the country (by percentage of land covered). The Forest Incentives Program (FIP) is a cost-share program to help landowners with forestry establishment and management practices. FIP has had only limited funding in recent history (about \$6 million in 1996). In 1996 Maine received about \$30,000 for an initial allocation and another \$40,000 from a later request. We could have easily utilized \$150,000-\$250,000. We are going to be trying in the fiscal year 97 fund allocation process to get to a \$200,000 level. We feel we can effectively utilize that level in Maine with small woodlot owners. This group includes 7,000-8,000 individuals who control about 10 million acres of Maine's forest land. In the past FIP cost share funds have been utilized mostly in the southern states to plant harvested forest land.

If you have any questions on the above, please feel free to contact me at 207-866-7241.

Sincerely,



Richard B. Baird
Acting State Conservationist

Attachment



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Kevin Mathis, Office of Senator Specter

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

JB

7 pages, including this cover

Per our discussion, attached is information about our two excellent AmeriCorps projects in Pennsylvania: a year-long rural development project with the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission in Hollidaysburg and a summer food recovery project based in Uniontown. As you can see from the print-outs, both sites have achieved concrete, measurable results that significantly matter to the people of Pennsylvania. Also attached is one of the numerous press clips about the projects.

Also attached is a two page memo specifically explaining the current status of the USDA AmeriCorps program and the compromise we are seeking to reach with Senator Bond.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 720-5746. Thank you for your consideration.

JANUARY 15, 1996



(Herald-Standard Photo by Dale Lockhart)

Members of the five-person team are (from left): Amy Myers, Craig Kelso, Adam Vaacke, Susan Thagard and Jaime Fecek.

Youthful team will try to boost heritage development in county

By **MELISSA WILLIAMS SCHOFIELD**
Herald-Standard Staff Writer

A team of five recent college graduates from all walks of life will be spending the next eight months trying to rebuild Fayette County's economy.

Their goal is to encourage tourism-related heritage development at the National Road State Heritage Park and the Youghiogheny River Trail. The team started working on revitalizing Fayette County in mid-October and is based at the National Road Heritage Park offices near Fort Necessity's entrance along the National Road in Farmington.

The team is comprised of Susan Thagard, who is planner and coordinator; Adam Baacke, historic preservationist; Jaime Fecek, public relations; Craig Kelso, public historian; and Amy Myers, who is an attorney.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Business and Cooperative Development Service is sponsoring the Fayette County AmeriCorps Team that was applied for and is supervised by the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission, Fay-Penn Economic Development Council and Penn's Corner RC&D Council.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program, passed with bipartisan support from Congress, that engages a diverse group of Americans in working partnerships with communities to provide real and measurable service to meet environmental and human needs, while earning education benefits and building an ethic of service, responsibility and citizenship, explains Thagard. The majority of AmeriCorps members are working in partnership with state and local governments and non-profit organizations.

According to Thagard, the joint development program for all three agencies is geared toward aggressive countywide recovery through the identification

and development of sites and resources infrastructure. The program includes fostering a strong partnership among private and public agencies, as well as small community-based groups, working toward rebuilding the economy of Fayette County, said Thagard.

The team intends to complete 1700 hours of service over an 11-month time frame.

Thagard, who hails from Pittsburgh, graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park, in 1990, with a bachelor of arts degree in fine arts and a minor in art history, from the University of Utah at Salt Lake City in 1995 with an urban planning certificate, and from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, where she learned valuable research skills by documenting historic information for small towns, which she is applying toward her work in Fayette County.

Baacke, a 1995 graduate of Cornell University with a bachelor of arts degree in history and a concentration in historic preservation/planning and theater arts/design, he has held several internships, acquiring knowledge to design properties as a scenic artist. He is from Bellingham, Wash.

Kelso is also well-suited to provide historical information pertaining to structures along the National Road and the Youghiogheny River Trail.

A graduate of Southwest Missouri State University at Springfield, Mo., he also acquired a degree from Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., both in history. Since he graduated in 1990, he has developed research and organizational skills in positions pertaining to his field. He is a Morgantown, W.Va., resident.

Fecek, of Brownsville, will feel right at home promoting the area where she was born and raised.

A graduate of California University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor of arts degree in communica-

Team will try to boost tourism

► Continued from B-1

tions/public relations, she has worked for the National Road Heritage Park, distributing information about the National Road Heritage Park. She also worked at neighboring Nemacolin Woodlands in Wharton Township, writing articles to promote the award-winning resort.

Myers, who was raised in Atlanta, Ga., graduated from the University of Maryland Law School in 1994 and just passed the Georgia bar examination this past spring. She will be doing deed research for areas in Fayette County, helping to conduct town meetings and working on a low-interest loan program, just to name a few.

Thagard said the group's goals are plentiful, but they intend to work together until the program comes to an end in October.

"Our focus is on two corridors in Fayette County: the National Road and the Yough River Trail," said Thagard of the federally funded project, pointing out the team is not employees of the National Road Heritage Park.

"We don't earn a salary, but a living stipend fee of \$12,000. That money is applied toward our living

expenses and at the end of the year, we each get an educational award of \$4,725 to be applied toward future education or college loans," explains the planner and team coordinator. The team also receives health care benefits.

She is proud of the projects she and her fellow colleagues are working on, such as an upcoming teacher's summit in Fayette County for public history, science and art teachers to conduct a one-day seminar explaining ways to utilize resources in Fayette County for teaching purposes.

"Instead of students going all the way to Pittsburgh to take a class, we're hoping to encourage teachers here to use facilities right here in Fayette County and to promote a better awareness for children by using facilities in their back yard. This will give teachers an opportunity to take students to the Youghiogheny River Trail for geography or biology classes," Thagard explains.

Because the project was applied for through the USDA, the team is working closely with them to promote a housing, loan and grant program in Fayette County. She said their goal is to assist the National Road Heritage Park in establishing a

revolving loan fund to provide low-interest loans to owners of historic structures along the National Road interested in improving their property in a manner which would have a favorable visual impact on the National Road corridor.

"Through these efforts, we intend to conduct town meetings and to attend different organization meetings to make presentations so people will be more aware of the loan programs that exist in Fayette County. We also intend to promote home ownership and better living conditions in communities all through Fayette County," she said, explaining another goal is to work on facade improvement projects.

"We're looking for volunteer homeowners along the National Road or Youghiogheny River Trail. The idea is for property owners to have a visual impact on these corridors of the National Road. We want to help them by painting their property, like a facade. It's a simple way to cheaply improve the visuals along the National Road through tourism and economic improvements in the county," she said.

The group is also working to restore other properties along the National Road for visitors and local

residents by planting shrubs and trees.

"Our ultimate goal is to clean up areas in Fayette County," said Thagard, who learned of the AmeriCorps Team through the Southwestern Heritage Preservation Commission. Since it is part of the nine-county region, the group has worked with the AmeriCorps program before.

"They saw the need here in Fayette County for revitalization, so they made application for the team, through the efforts of Fay-Penn Economic Development Council and Penn's Corner RC&D, and Fayette County qualified for it," said Thagard, explaining the team is not working directly for the National Road Heritage Park, but is merely using its facilities.

Other projects the group is working on are to establish an Adopt-A-Highway program along the National Road and have at least three sections adopted by the end of 1996, to develop a historic interpretation program for the Youghiogheny River Trail aimed at local school groups, community members and other trail users and to develop and coordinate trail corridor activity linking Washington, D.C., to Pittsburgh through

existing and proposed Fayette County trail corridors. The group's goals are extensive, but they want to encourage tourism-related heritage development within the Youghiogheny River Trail and the National Road Heritage Park corridors.

They also hope to assist the National Road Heritage Park office in designing and implementing appropriate signage to assist travelers in locating and following historic routes of the National Road and to develop a community theater organization to mount productions based on local oral history which would be performed in conjunction with the National Pike Festival.

They also intend to create a book-

let to be distributed at visitor centers and local Chambers of Commerce interpreting the history and architectural development of the National Road following several themes outlined in the National Road Heritage Park Management Action Plan to accompany drivers, bikers and travelers.

In addition, the team intends to support and coordinate local initiatives focused on the remediation of visual and environmental pollution of historic, trail and waterway corridors.

Thagard says any resident interested in having a facade done on their property along the National Road should contact her 329-1560.

August 28, 1996

To: Kevin Mathis, Office of Senator Specter

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

Subject: **Compromise to Allow USDA AmeriCorps Projects to Continue**

In both the 1994-1995 program year and the 1995-1996 program year, USDA sponsored community-based AmeriCorps projects throughout the country that fought hunger, protected the environment, and boosted rural community development. In both program years, the projects were supported by four sources of funding:

- 1) Corporation for National Service (CNS) funding paid for educational awards for AmeriCorps Members that successfully completed the program. *These funds were not transferred to USDA* --- they were deposited into a trust fund that will later pay the lending and/or educational institutions of AmeriCorps graduates.
- 2) CNS funds were granted from CNS to USDA, which USDA, in turn, sub-granted to local AmeriCorps projects --- principally to five anti-hunger projects.
- 3) USDA utilized money from the Department's own appropriated funds. USDA used funds from several agencies to support AmeriCorps projects that provided critical community services in areas directly related to the mission areas of those agencies.
- 4) State and local governments and private sector organizations provided matching funds. In the 1994-1995 program year, non-Federal sources provided \$1.7 million in funding to USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps projects.

However, in order to meet concerns raised by Senator Bond and others, CNS will no longer make grants of *operating* funds to Federal agencies. The legal result of this policy is that USDA funding source #2 --- operating funds transferred from CNS to USDA --- has been eliminated.

The few USDA AmeriCorps projects that were most dependent on this source of funding --- the five anti-hunger projects --- banded together as a consortium under the umbrella of the non-profit Congressional Hunger Center to successfully apply for funding directly from CNS.

The prohibition on the distribution of CNS operating funds (funding source #2) to Federal agencies does NOT restrict the ability of CNS to enter into cooperative agreements with Federal agencies, such as USDA, in order to provide non-financial assistance to AmeriCorps projects of Federal agencies and provide educational awards (funding source #1) to the AmeriCorps Members in those projects.

Thus, USDA still has the *legal* ability to use their own appropriated funds (source #3) and obtain state, local, and private matching funds (source #4) to support AmeriCorps projects.

Consequently, if CNS signs a cooperative agreement providing non-monetary assistance to USDA, AmeriCorps programs sponsored by the Department will still have the legal ability to continue --- and the graduates of those projects will still be able to obtain educational awards.

However, even though both CNS and USDA have the *legal* ability to ensure that USDA can continue to run an AmeriCorps program, the Department and CNS are seeking to reach a bi-partisan *policy* consensus with key leaders in Congress that USDA will do so. The entire USDA AmeriCorps program --- INCLUDING THE EXCELLENT PROJECTS IN PENNSYLVANIA ---- has been placed on hold pending such discussions.

USDA and CNS both want to be sure that Members of Congress do not have even the perception that USDA and CNS are violating Congressional intent by continuing to sponsor AmeriCorps projects.

Secretary of Agriculture Glickman is seeking to meet with Senator Bond as soon as possible to discuss this issue.

Some have suggested that full responsibility for funding and managing all USDA AmeriCorps projects to be transferred to state commissions on national service. Yet **most state commissions on national service have neither the available funds nor the technical expertise to continue these projects on their own. In addition, most state commissions do not have the ability to effectively place projects in many of the rural areas served by USDA AmeriCorps projects. While most state commissions strongly support the USDA AmeriCorps projects in their state, they do NOT want to take them over.** In reality, transferring these projects to state commissions would be, in effect, an unfunded mandate placed on the states.

One sensible compromise would be to allow state commissions to exercise a veto power over USDA AmeriCorps projects in their state. USDA would still be allowed to fund and manage projects in any state, with the exception of a state in which the state commission, appointed by the state's governor, disapproves of the project.

Such a compromise would meet Senator Bond's desire to place final control over our AmeriCorps projects under state governments, while allowing a wide range of quality projects to continue serving communities across America.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Mike Scholl, Office of Congressman Dingell

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA *JB*

6 pages, including this cover

Per our discussion, attached is information about our excellent AmeriCorps projects in Michigan. As you can see from the print-outs, all the sites have achieved concrete, measurable results.

Also attached is a two page memo specifically explaining the current status of the USDA AmeriCorps program and the compromise we are seeking to reach with Senator Bond.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 720-5746. Thank you for your consideration.

August 29, 1996

To: Mike Scholl, Office of Congressman Dingell

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA 

Subject: **Compromise to Allow USDA AmeriCorps Projects to Continue**

In both the 1994-1995 program year and the 1995-1996 program year, USDA sponsored community-based AmeriCorps projects throughout the country that fought hunger, protected the environment, and boosted rural community development. In both program years, the projects were supported by four sources of funding:

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However, in order to meet concerns raised by Senator Bond and others, CNS will no longer make grants of *operating* funds to Federal agencies. The legal result of this policy is that USDA funding source #2 --- operating funds transferred from CNS to USDA --- has been eliminated.

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USDA and CNS both want to be sure that Members of Congress do not have even the perception that USDA and CNS are violating Congressional intent by continuing to sponsor AmeriCorps projects.

Secretary of Agriculture Glickman is seeking to meet with Senator Bond as soon as possible to discuss this issue.

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UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Ashley Abbott, Office of Congressman Baldacci
Cynthia Dailard, Office of Senator Snowe

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA *JB*

11 pages, including this cover

Per our discussion, attached is information about our excellent AmeriCorps projects in Maine. As you can see from the print-outs, all the sites have achieved concrete, measurable results that significantly matter to the people of Maine.

Also attached is a two page memo specifically explaining the current status of the USDA AmeriCorps program and the compromise we are seeking to reach with Senator Bond.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 720-5746. Thank you for your consideration.

August 27, 1996

To: Cynthia Dailard, Office of Senator Snowe

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA *JB*

Subject: **Compromise to Allow USDA AmeriCorps Projects to Continue**

In both the 1994-1995 program year and the 1995-1996 program year, USDA sponsored community-based AmeriCorps projects throughout the country that fought hunger, protected the environment, and boosted rural community development. In both program years, the projects were supported by four sources of funding:

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USDA and CNS both want to be sure that Members of Congress do not have even the perception that USDA and CNS are violating Congressional intent by continuing to sponsor AmeriCorps projects.

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UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Audra McCardell, *Message*
Dionne Thompson
Office of Sen. Johnston

** —* Betty Phelan *Message* *Spoke to*
Jeff Lewis
H. Adam Lawrennce
Office of Senator Breaux

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

3 pages, including this cover

At 2:00 p.m. today, USDA will distribute the attached press release about the amazing accomplishments of the USDA AmeriCorps rural fire protection project in Louisiana and elsewhere.

You may want to issue your own release at the same time.

Please call me at 720-5746 with any questions.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Danny Cromer — ~~1 STOKER~~ Spoke 1/2
Hope Derrick
Office of Congressman Clyburn

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

3 pages, including this cover

At 2:00 p.m. today, USDA will distribute the attached press release about the amazing accomplishments of the USDA AmeriCorps rural fire protection project in your district and elsewhere.

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UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Amy Rainone - 1 spots to
David Carle
Office of Senator Leahy

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

3 pages, including this cover

At 2:00 p.m. today, USDA will distribute the attached press release about the amazing accomplishments of the USDA AmeriCorps rural fire protection project in Vermont and elsewhere.

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Please call me at 720-5746 with any questions.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Lisy Brown
John Lyford - spoke 40
Office of Senator Bumpers

~~Justin Johnson~~ - spoke 40
Chuck Welsh - spoke 40
Bo Morrison
Office of Senator Pryor

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

3 pages, including this cover

At 2:00 p.m. today, USDA will distribute the attached press release about the amazing accomplishments of the USDA AmeriCorps rural fire protection project in Arkansas and elsewhere.

You may want to issue your own release at the same time.

Please call me at 720-5746 with any questions.