

1 State of Arkansas  
2 82nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 1999

SR 18

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5 By: Senators Webb, Bearden  
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8 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

9 "URGING THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS TO INCREASE THE  
10 FUNDS ALLOCATED TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
11 AGRICULTURE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE FOR  
12 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO LANDOWNERS IN ARKANSAS."

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14 **Subtitle**

15 "URGING THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS TO  
16 ALLOCATE ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO THE UNITED  
17 STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NATURAL  
18 RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE FOR USE  
19 IN ARKANSAS."  
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22 WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas has significant concern for its soil,  
23 water and related resources; and

24 WHEREAS, conservation of soils improves the environment while increasing  
25 the productivity and protecting our soils for the future generations; and

26 WHEREAS, in parts of Arkansas the ground water resource is being over  
27 utilized, agricultural irrigation practices must become more efficient and  
28 surface water use must be substituted for ground water use; and

29 WHEREAS, high quality surface water has made Arkansas the "Natural  
30 State" and continued agricultural productivity is important for Arkansas, the  
31 United States and the world, making the proper disposal of animal wastes and  
32 erosion control important for our way of life; and

33 WHEREAS, flooding continues to be a threat to life and property in  
34 Arkansas and needs for flood control and drainage continue unmet in Arkansas;  
35 and

36 WHEREAS, the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission and the

1 Local Conservation Districts provide invaluable assistance to citizens of  
2 Arkansas in conserving our soil and water resources, but there is a definite  
3 need for the federal government to play a significant role in this  
4 conservation partnership; and

5 WHEREAS, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service is the only  
6 federal agency that has responsibility for providing locally available,  
7 conservation technical assistance directly on private lands and to local  
8 government; and

9 WHEREAS, the number of Natural Resources Conservation Service field  
10 staff providing technical assistance in Arkansas has drastically decreased  
11 during the past five (5) years resulting in the closing of thirteen (13) local  
12 field offices; and

13 WHEREAS, additional technical assistance will have a positive effect on  
14 the people, the environment, the economy, and the infrastructure of Arkansas,  
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16 NOW THEREFORE,

17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
18 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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20 That the Arkansas Senate calls upon the President of the United States,  
21 the Secretary of Agriculture and the United States Congress to increase  
22 funding for the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources  
23 Conservation Service and to charge NRCS to provide field support to the  
24 immense conservation workload in the State of Arkansas.  
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be directed to  
27 send enrolled copies of this resolution to the President of the United States,  
28 the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, the Chief of  
29 Natural Resources Conservation Service and to each member of the Arkansas  
30 Congressional Delegation.  
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