



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

**Farm and Foreign  
Agricultural  
Services**

**Farm  
Service  
Agency**

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October 24, 2012

Governor Robert Bentley  
State Capitol  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Dear Governor Bentley,

On behalf of the Alabama Farm Service Agency (FSA), we thank you for the opportunity to provide input in developing a statewide water management plan. The FSA is in total agreement that Alabama's water resources must be protected and managed for present and future generations. The development of a comprehensive policy for the management of Alabama's water resources is indeed a positive step in planning and providing for protection of our natural resources.

FSA does not currently have any programs that are readily available and compatible with the mission of the described plan. Our FSA Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) provides emergency funding and technical assistance for farmers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought. Funding for this program is appropriated by Congress. Unfortunately, this is more of a reactionary program providing cost-share assistance to livestock producers during severe drought situations. It is not designed for long-term resource planning measures.

As you are aware, no legislation has been enacted at the present time to implement a new Farm Bill, or to extend the current authority. We are hopeful that new legislation will be enacted soon to provide new Farm Bill programs, perhaps more well-matched to the format of the statewide water management plan provisions. After the bill is enacted, we will follow-up with additional information if any suitable programs are made available.

Sincerely,

Daniel Robinson  
State Executive Director



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