



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

JAN 10 2018

The Honorable Steve Daines
United States Senate
320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Daines:

Thank you for your letter of November 14, 2017, on behalf of your constituents, the farmers and ranchers of Montana, who have been affected by the severe drought conditions in 2017. I apologize for the delayed response.

Recognizing that counties and Tribal reservations across much of Montana experienced record low levels of precipitation, high temperatures, and wildfires, which had substantial impacts on harvests and infrastructure for farmers and ranchers in the region, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) has provided Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) assistance within available funding limits. Should Congress make additional funding available for ECP, FSA will work with the affected counties to evaluate the conditions and needs at that time. ECP projects that have been initiated will be provided the opportunity to request a 6-month extension up to June 1, 2018.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have any further questions, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720-7095.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sonny Perdue". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sonny Perdue
Secretary