



AISWCD

CLEAN WATER.
HEALTHY SOILS.



ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

November 1st, 2020

Greetings:

Lawmakers will return to Springfield beginning on November 17th for the start of the fall legislative Veto Session of the 100th Illinois General Assembly. This occurs annually in the fall and the intent is to provide a legislative time frame where lawmakers can revisit legislation vetoed by the Governor, although it is not limited specifically to vetoed legislation. This year, lawmakers are expected to address ethics and social justice issues spurred by events from this past spring.

We at the AISWCD do not anticipate much action in the realm of conservation, however, the political and policy landscape is ever changing. We will, however, continue to engage in some advocacy efforts to promote Senate Bill 3462, otherwise known as the Illinois Partners for Nutrient Loss Reduction Act. The Illinois Partners for Nutrient Loss Reduction Act does a number of things, but most importantly for our purposes, the bill extends the sunset on the expiring Partners for Conservation program as well as provides for increased funding for soil and water conservation programs. We do not expect the bill to move during the fall Veto Session and anticipate reintroducing the bill in January when the 101st Illinois General Assembly convenes for the spring session. The efforts made this past spring and coming fall will continue to lay a strong foundation for future success.

We hope that you have had the opportunity to utilize the AISWCD's new grassroots digital advocacy tool, which we unveiled last spring. Members may now visit the AISWCD website and click on the e-advocacy tab, and with a few keystrokes quickly identify their respective lawmakers and send a grassroots message with the greatest of ease. Additionally, the AISWCD can send a call to action to members to send lawmakers important email messages on critical issues. Finally, the digital advocacy tool allows AISWCD to monitor the amount of emails sent to lawmakers, allowing us to take measure of the frequency and intensity our messages that are reaching lawmakers. AISWCD will likely call upon member districts to send advocacy email messages surrounding the Veto Session.

Please find attached several advocacy postcards for your use this fall. Please encourage local SWCD supporters and cooperators to complete the backside of the postcard telling local lawmakers why they support their SWCD. Lawmakers appreciate hearing from their constituents, and this is an effective means to demonstrate support for soil and water conservation activities in the district.

Clean water, healthy soils.

Sincerely,

Grant Hammer
Executive Director



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