ATTACHMENT 10A

Wake Soil and Water Conservation District

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Agricultural Services Building
4001-D Carya Drive, Raleigh NC 27610
www.WakeGov.com/swcd

September 9, 2026

North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Commission
1614 Mail Service Center
Raleigh NC 27699-1614

North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Commission Members,

On behalf of the Wake Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors, I am pleased to express our strong support for NC Agricultural Cost Share Program application 92-2027-005 for the Grassed Waterways and Grade Stabilization Structures project. The project would be located at the E. Carroll Joyner Beef Education Unit on property owned by the State of North Carolina.

The proposed Grassed Waterway and Grade Stabilization Structure will address a significant erosion and runoff problem within the Beef Unit pasture and stabilize soil just upstream of Yates Mill Pond. The pasture currently contains a major gully caused by concentrated runoff from Lake Wheeler Road and a newly paved church parking lot upstream. Without stabilization, continued erosion and sediment transport could adversely affect downstream water resources.

The project is particularly important because of its location within a critical watershed. Runoff from the project area eventually reaches Lake Benson, a City of Raleigh drinking water supply reservoir. Yates Mill Pond also supports a North Carolina State University laboratory used to propagate and raise threatened and endangered mussel, fish, and salamander species. Protecting water quality in this area is therefore important for both drinking water supplies and aquatic habitat and conservation research.

NC Agricultural Cost Share Program funds will be combined with funding already secured by North Carolina State University and the NC Division of Water Resources. The requested funding is critical to making the project financially feasible while leveraging these existing investments to address a significant natural resource concern. Given the severity of the erosion, downstream water quality benefits, and multiple funding partners, this project is a high priority for the Wake Soil and Water Conservation District.

The project also provides valuable educational and demonstration benefits. The NC State Beef Unit is a working educational pasture supporting livestock activities, 4-H camps, and hands-on learning in agriculture and natural resource management. It also serves as a demonstration site for pasture management, grazing, and other agricultural conservation

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workshops. The proposed practices will provide a real-world example of conservation on working lands that can benefit students, producers, landowners, and conservation professionals throughout Wake County and North Carolina.

The Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW) has been held at the NC State Beef Unit since the 1960s, with approximately 90 students participating each year. The proposed conservation practices will provide an additional hands-on learning opportunity and demonstrate the importance of addressing runoff, erosion, pasture management, and water quality on working lands.

In conclusion, the Wake Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors strongly supports application 92-2027-005 for the Grassed Waterway and Grade Stabilization Structure project. We respectfully request consideration of $38,000 in NC Agricultural Cost Share Program funds needed to complete this important conservation project. We appreciate the Commission's continued investment in projects that protect North Carolina's soil and water resources and advance conservation on working lands.

Sincerely,

Beth Pugh Farrell

Beth Pugh Farrell, Chair
Wake Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors

ATTACHMENT 10A

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September 9, 2026

North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Commission
1614 Mail Service Center
Raleigh NC 27699-1614

To the North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Commission:

We respectfully submit this letter requesting the use of NC Agricultural Cost Share Program funds on State-owned property at the NC State University Beef Unit to implement a Grassed Waterway and Grade Stabilization Structure, identified as contract number 92-2027-005.

This project represents a collaborative effort among multiple partners to implement a comprehensive water-quality retrofit at the NC State University Lake Wheeler Beef Unit, a working teaching farm in Raleigh that serves thousands of visitors each year. The Wake County Soil and Water Conservation District has been an active partner throughout the planning and development of this project and strongly supports its implementation.

The proposed Grassed Waterway and Grade Stabilization Structure will address a significant erosion problem and stabilize soil immediately upstream of Yates Millpond. The Beef Unit pasture currently contains a major actively eroding gully resulting from concentrated runoff originating from Lake Wheeler Road and a newly paved church parking lot upstream. Without stabilization, continued erosion will threaten the long-term productivity of the pasture and contribute additional sediment and pollutants to downstream water resources.

NC State University has actively explored available funding opportunities and has committed all resources it can reasonably allocate to this project given current budget constraints. After reviewing available funding sources, NC State can contribute $47,500 toward the project. NC Agricultural Cost Share Program funds will be combined with this institutional commitment, as well as funding already secured through the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality’s Division of Water Resources. Additional funding sources have also been explored; however, several have eligibility limitations based on watershed requirements, project location, and other program criteria.

Given these funding limitations, NC Agricultural Cost Share Program assistance is critical to closing the remaining funding gap and making this high-priority project feasible.

The project also provides a significant downstream water-quality benefit. Runoff from the project area ultimately flows toward Lake Benson, a City of Raleigh drinking-water supply reservoir, making erosion and sediment reduction at this location particularly important. Stabilizing the gully and treating concentrated runoff will help protect downstream water resources while improving the long-term health, productivity, and usability of the Beef Unit pasture.

In addition to its environmental benefits, this project provides a unique and substantial educational opportunity. The Beef Unit is a working educational pasture used by the NC State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences for teaching, demonstrations, and agricultural education. The site also serves as a variety of educational programs and 4-H activities throughout the year. The Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW) has been held at the Beef Unit since the 1960s and currently brings approximately 90 students annually to the site. Many of these students go on to pursue careers in natural resource conservation. The installed conservation practices will therefore serve not only as functional water-quality BMPs, but also as educational demonstrations of erosion control, pasture management, and natural resource conservation for the next generation of conservation professionals.

We respectfully request the North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Commission's consideration and support of contract number 92-2027-005 through the NC Agricultural Cost Share Program. We appreciate your consideration of this important project and your continued investment in conservation efforts that protect North Carolina's agricultural lands and water resources.

Sincerely,

M. Todd See

M. Todd See
Professor and Head
Department of Animal Science
North Carolina State University