

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

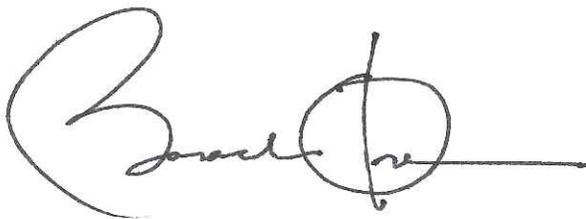
December 23, 2010

I send greetings to all those celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), an initiative which has conserved tens of millions of acres of America's private lands.

Established in response to Americans' concerns about soil erosion and crop production on marginal lands, CRP has expanded to address loss of wetlands, deteriorating water quality, and diminishing wildlife, while providing landowners with incentives to protect and restore fragile lands. The program has encouraged farmers and ranchers—stewards of our Nation's natural resources—to convert highly erodible cropland and other environmentally sensitive farmland to grasslands, forest, and other conservation spaces.

Through these partnerships, CRP reduces soil erosion, safeguards our streams and lakes, restores wetlands and wildlife habitats, and continues to help re-establish populations of waterfowl, salmon, upland birds, and other wildlife. CRP has also boosted water quality by protecting numerous watersheds that supply water to small cities and communities across America. Helping farmers and ranchers improve our environment and fostering large-scale farmland restoration efforts, CRP has worked to conserve our precious natural resources for future generations.

CRP remains a vital conservation program, and my Administration is committed to ensuring its contributions to our Nation's environment and economy are maintained and enhanced in the years ahead. As you celebrate a quarter-century of CRP achievements and progress, I wish you all the best.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barack Obama". The signature is stylized, with a large, sweeping initial "B" and a circular flourish at the end.