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National Turfgrass Evaluation Program

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Dear member of the turfgrass industry,

Just recently, with the presentation of the FY97 budget by President Clinton to Congress, the United States Dept. of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) cancelled its funding of the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) effective October 1, 1996. The USDA, ARS apparently considers the US turfgrass industry a very low priority and with this action, has cancelled essentially its only funding in support of the turfgrass industry. If this decision is not reversed, the USDA will have severed ties to the turfgrass industry after seventy years of support.

The good news is that there is still time to reverse this decision. If you are interested in saving this program, please contact your congressional representatives immediately telling them you support turfgrass research funding by USDA. Also, the following individuals within USDA need to hear from you:

Secretary Dan Glickman
USDA
Jamie L. Whitten Federal Bldg.
Room 200A
14th & Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250
Phone (202) 720-3631

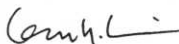
Dr. Floyd Horn
USDA, ARS Administrator
Jamie L. Whitten Federal Bldg.
Room 302A
14th & Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250
(202) 720-3656

Dr. Edward Knipling
Deputy Administrator
USDA, ARS, NPS
BARC-West
Bldg. 005, Room 125
Beltsville, MD 20705
(301) 504-5084

I have enclosed a sample letter highlighting some important points. Please add to this letter any benefits you see coming from NTEP. Also, please pass this information on to other individuals. If you are a member of a turfgrass association, please ask the association to write a group response.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. Thanks for your support and assistance.

Sincerely,



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National Turfgrass Evaluation Program

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Letter to the Editor:

Dear Tom:

I appreciate the opportunity to have visited with you last week regarding the dual membership issue. Unfortunately, it seems as though your concerns about the disclosure of Chapter financial statements had not been answered. You were also not aware of GCSAA's plans to do everything possible to bring non-member Superintendents and more Assistants into GCSAA membership. Don Brethauer at GCSAA headquarters can assist you with any questions you may have. I urge you to contact him.

In listening to the tape of my presentation I quote:

"When Bruce Williams asked me to visit you today, if this would have been four or five years ago, I would probably have told him that we may want to pass the speaking engagement on to someone else. But now over the last two or three

years, and what's gone on with GCSAA, I can probably come here and feel comfortable with visiting with you. I can tell you that GCSAA has put a strong foot forward and backed up what they said they would do and put some things on the table that hopefully would be of value to you."

Please note that Pat (not me or GCSAA) assigned me the topic title "What Do I Get For My Dues Investment?" Never in my talk did I refer to any of the by-law issues. **My entire presentation was on the recent additions, upgrades, improvements and benefits to GCSAA membership.** It wasn't until the conclusion of my benefits presentation that I requested questions from the audience on any issues or concerns related to GCSAA in general. As you recall, no one, not even you, asked a single question. Considering your strong opinions on several issues, it surprised me that you did not respond when given the opportunity.

— Tommy D. Witt
GCSAA