



## *Society for Range Management*

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February 13, 2017

President Donald J. Trump  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

On behalf of the Society for Range Management (SRM), I write to you in support of the selection of Dr. Larry D. Butler to USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service Chief.

SRM is a professional scientific society and conservation organization whose members are committed to the study, conservation, and sustainability of the varied resources of the world's rangelands. Rangelands are enormously important watersheds for the production of livestock, energy, clean water, clean air, and productive wildlife habitat. SRM's members are land managers, scientists, educators, students, producers, and conservationists, all driven by a mission of providing stewardship for the sound use of rangelands based on ecological principles. The position of USDA-NRCS Chief provides a pathway for SRM members to contribute their knowledge and expertise towards the sound use and management of these unique lands and it is with this in mind that we write to you in staunch support of Dr. Butler.

Dr. Butler has a long history with SRM and its membership, having made numerous technical presentations over the past thirty years to the 21 state and regional sections that comprise SRM's membership, as well as to our international body of members during SRM's annual conferences.

Dr. Butler was honored in 2016 with the Society for Range Management's highly coveted W.R. Chapline Land Stewardship Award, which recognizes individuals who have demonstrated effective maintenance and improvement of range resources, with lasting efforts. This recognition has been awarded only 30 times in the Society's 70-year history.

Dr. Butler is a renowned conservation expert across the country. His passion for natural resources is unmatched and his experience as a member of USDA-NRCS's Senior Executive Service makes him a valuable asset to your team at the Department of Agriculture and the USDA-NRCS. Dr. Butler has a critical eye and the ability to streamline and incorporate efficiencies, while keeping the conservation and sound stewardship of the nation's natural resources at the forefront of his efforts.

The Society for Range Management highly recommends the selection of Dr. Larry Butler to Chief of USDA-NRCS. There is simply no one more qualified or passionate about natural resource conservation, to lead USDA-NRCS.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Larry D. Howery". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name.

Larry D. Howery, Ph.D.

President, Society for Range Management