



## Conservation Advocacy – Next Level Conservation for Working Lands



1. Clean Water Indiana (CWI) funds are the only means by which the state can provide financial support to SICIM and the III.
2. Without the support and cooperation of the SWCDs the III and CISMAs will simply not be successful!
3. CISMAs appreciate legislators funding CWI (Indiana Code 14032-8) through the Cigarette Tax Fund and a general line item in the budget.
4. The CWI fund provides money for SWCD grants and cost-share programs to reduce sediment / nutrient runoff, as well as State Dept of Ag, Division of Soil support staff.
5. This proposal is an additional \$8.6 million annual investment in Clean Water Indiana.
6. This investment will:
  - Benefit: farmers, landowners, outdoor enthusiasts, and industry statewide
  - Target threats: Local dollars fuel practical solutions for healthy lands, waters and wildlife (invasive species, topsoil/nutrient loss, ground/surface water degradation, habitat loss)
  - Leverage additional funding: CWI will multiply the impact of the state's investment by obtaining federal conservation dollars for statewide efforts including the Indiana Invasives Initiative, CISMA grants, Conservation Crop Systems Initiative, The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and the Urban Soil Health Program. These funds can provide funds for an invasive species specialist at the SWCD office.
  - Encourage local investment: CWI can provide more land management, education, and technical assistance through our SWCDs and CISMAs
  - Provide an efficient, proven approach: Increasing CWI builds upon proven effectiveness of existing collaboration between state government, grassroots organizations and the private sector. This is not an increase in the size of government.



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