



KATHY KARPAN
Secretary of State
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002-0020

December 20, 1993

Ms. Torrie Kohut
Washakie County Conservation District
1700 Robertson Avenue
Worland, WY 82401

Dear Torrie:

You called today to inquire whether a woman who is a permanent resident alien, and consequently not a United States citizen, meets the qualifications of a conservation district supervisor. Although the woman is not a United States citizen, she is a resident of the district and, moreover, owns land within the district.

Given our reading of the statutes, the woman would be eligible to be a district supervisor if she serves in a rural slot, but would not be eligible to serve in an urban or at-large slot. It is our understanding that the supervisor position being vacated is a rural one and, accordingly, the woman would be eligible.

W.S. 11-16-119 states that the initial supervisors shall be owners of land within the district. W.S. 11-16-120 states there shall be five supervisors who reside within the district elected to staggered terms. Of those five supervisors, three shall be rural residents, one shall be an urban resident and one shall be an at-large member. Reading those two statutes together, it would appear that the supervisors have to all be owners of land within the district and shall also reside within the district.

W.S. 11-16-102, the definitions section of the Conservation District Act, further defines "at-large member" and "urban member" to mean, among other things, registered voter. Accordingly, the legislature intends that at-large members and urban members must be persons who are registered voters which means they have to be United States citizens. There is no definition of "rural member," so it appears that you then go to W.S. 11-16-119 and 120 to glean the qualifications of rural members.

Margy White
Deputy



The Capitol
(307)777-7378

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I hope this answers your question. If not, please do not
hesitate to contact me.

Yours,



Kathy Karpan
Secretar of State

*Merry
Christmas!*

KK/wan

cc: Bobbie Hallwachs, Director
Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts
2505 East Foxfarm
Cheyenne, WY 82007