



Advancing soil health policies & programs  
that create value for farmers, businesses,  
and communities.

## LAND CORE SOIL HEALTH FEDERAL LEGISLATION UPDATE - 1/31/2022

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Here's your first Soil Health Federal Legislation update of the year, based on [Land Core's Bill Tracker](#) and related activities in Congress.

### **New Bills:**

**[H.R.6147 - Driftless Area Landscape Conservation Initiative Act \(DALCI\) Act](#)**: Introduced by Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-IL-17) on 12/7/21, this bipartisan bill would re-establish the DALCI program (which was active from 2012-2017) at USDA, implemented through EQIP, to improve conservation efforts, including working lands management, in the Driftless Area (covering Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin). See [Tracker - Core tab](#).

**[H.R.6003 - Veteran and Beginning Farmers Assistance Act of 2021](#)**: Introduced by Rep. Ann Kuster (D-NH-2) on 12/7/21, this bipartisan bill would reauthorize and increase funding for the Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (ATTRA) program. Housed under NCAT, ATTRA provides resources, training, technical assistance, and farmer-to-farmer learning networks for producers (particularly historically underserved farmers) seeking to expand and diversify their operations. See [Tracker - Core tab](#).

**[H.R.4677 / S.3484 - New York-New Jersey Watershed Protection Act](#)**: Introduced by Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) on 1/12/22, this bipartisan, bicameral bill establishes a program to coordinate restoration and conservation activities in the NY-NJ Watershed, creating an opportunity to invest in soil health projects as "green infrastructure". Rep. Tonko (D-NY-20) previously introduced the House version of the bill in July 2021. See [Tracker - Ancillary tab](#).

### **Reintroduced Bills:**

**[H.R.6163 - Study on Improving Lands \(SOIL\) Act](#)**: Reintroduced on 12/7/21 by Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO-2), this bill would require USDA to direct a study on the state of soil health on federal lands, including determining impacts such as grazing, wildfire, recreation, and invasive species; to create a database of the information collected; and to publish a report of recommendations for legislative or

regulatory action to improve soil health, increase carbon sequestration, and improve community benefits of soil health programs. See [Tracker - Core tab](#).

### **Bills Advancing through Congress:**

[H.R.2773 / S.2372 - Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2021](#): Reintroduced by Rep. Dingell (D-MI-12) and Sen. Heinrich (D-NM) in 2021, this bill would direct over \$1.3 billion to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program for efforts led by States, territories, and Tribal nations to protect and restore wildlife habitat and prevent vulnerable wildlife from becoming endangered. The House bill was passed by the Natural Resources Committee on 1/19/22 and will now advance to the House floor. See [Tracker - Ancillary tab](#).

### **New Legislator Support:**

Below is a list of Members who have recently added their names and support to bills we are tracking.

- **Core Bills (new cosponsors):**
  - [H.R.5724 - White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, Hunger, and Health Act](#): Rep. Melanie Ann Stansbury (D-NM-1) (12/7/21).
  - [H.R.4443 - COMPOST Act](#): Rep. Donald Payne Jr. (D-NJ-10) (12/8/21).
  - [H.R.2820 - Growing Climate Solutions Act](#): Rep. Darren Soto (D-FL-9) (1/10/22).
  - [H.R.2581 - BIOCHAR Act](#): Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA-2) (1/11/22).
  - [H.R.2613 - Conservation and Innovative Climate Partnership Act of 2021](#): Rep. Jason Crow (D-CO-6) (11/15/21); Rep. Dean Phillips (D-MN-3).
  - [S.300 - Justice for Black Farmers Act of 2021](#): Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) (11/30/21).
  - [H.R.1393 - Justice for Black Farmers Act of 2021](#): Rep. Shontel Brown (D-OH-11) (11/15/21).
  - [H.R.2803 - Agriculture Resilience Act of 2021](#): Rep. Donald Beyer Jr. (D-VA-8); Rep. Bobby Rush (D-IL-1).
  - [H.R.1548 - Native Plant Species Pilot Program Act of 2021](#): Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA-2) (11/18/21).
  - [H.R.2670 - Civilian Climate Corps for Jobs and Justice Act](#): Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY-20) (1/12/22); Rep. Jimmy Gomez (D-CA-34) (1/18/22).
  - [H.R.794 - Climate Emergency Act of 2021](#): Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY-12) (12/14/21); Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA-13) (12/14/21).
- **Ancillary bills (new cosponsors):**
  - [H.R.5309 - Fresh Produce Procurement Reform Act of 2021](#): Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-GA-2) (11/15/21); Rep. David Valadao (R-CA-21) (12/8/21).
  - [H.R.5459 - School Food Recovery Act of 2021](#): Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA-24) (12/1/21).
  - [H.R.5249 - Small Farm to School Act of 2021](#): Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-CT-5) (11/16/21); Rep. Al Lawson (D-FL-5) (1/6/22).

- [H.R.3442 - National Prescribed Fire Act of 2021](#): Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA-3) (1/19/22).
- [H.R.1258 - Strengthening Local Processing Act of 2021](#): Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI-3) (1/3/22).
- [H.R.481 - Flood Resiliency and Taxpayer Savings Act of 2021](#): Rep. Lance Gooden (R-TX-5) (11/16); Rep. Colin Allred (D-TX-32) (12/9); Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC-2) (12/9); Rep. Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA-6) (1/3/22); Rep. Angie Craig (D-MN-2) (1/19/22).
- **Resolutions (new cosponsors):**
  - [H.Res.69 - To establish a national biodiversity strategy](#): Rep. Mike Quigley (D-IL-5) (11/18/21).

## Hearings Held:

**Farm Bill (Related) Hearing:** On 1/20/22, the House Ag Committee held a hearing "[To Review the State of the Rural Economy with Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack](#)". As Congress gears up for the 2023 Farm Bill, Vilsack highlighted the importance of creating and maintaining wealth in rural communities, and of positioning agriculture to address climate change.

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**Are we missing anything?** Let us know if there is a bill of interest that we have not added to our Bill Tracker.

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