



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

LAND CORE SOIL HEALTH FEDERAL LEGISLATION UPDATE - 3/1/2022

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

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

New Bills:

[H.R.6492 - Climate Resilience Workforce Act](#): Introduced by Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA-7) on 1/25/2022, this bill would establish an Office of Climate Resilience to support activities such as a Climate Resilience Job Creation grant program, in order to prepare for and address risks related to climate change across key sectors, including agriculture. The bill identifies disruptions to food production, soil degradation, and farm viability as climate-related risks. See [Tracker - Ancillary tab](#).

Bills Advancing through Congress:

[H.R.4677 / S.3484 - New York-New Jersey Watershed Protection Act](#): This House version of this bipartisan, bicameral bill, introduced by Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY-20), was **approved by the House Committee on Natural Resources on 2/16/2022**. The proposal would establish 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”. The bill now advances to the full House (while the Senate version, introduced by Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ), is currently under review by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee). See [Tracker - Ancillary tab](#).

[H.R.2872 / S.1420 - Safeguarding America's Future and Environment \(SAFE\) Act](#): This bicameral bill, introduced by Rep. Matt Cartwright (D-PA-8), was **approved by the House Committee on Natural Resources on 1/19/2022**. The proposal would establish an “integrated national approach to respond to ongoing and expected effects of extreme weather and climate change by protecting, managing, and conserving the fish, wildlife, and plants of the United States”. The bill now advances to the full House (while the Senate version, introduced by Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), is currently under review by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee). See [Tracker - Ancillary tab](#).

[H.R.4521 - America COMPETES \(Creating Opportunities for Manufacturing Pre-Eminence in Technology and Economic Strength\) Act of 2022](#): This bipartisan bill, introduced by Rep. Eddie

Bernice Johnson (D-TX-30), passed the House on 2/17/2022. The omnibus bill is largely aimed at increasing American competitiveness, including by providing billions of dollars for the production of semiconductor chips, strengthening supply chains, and research and innovation. The bill includes international development assistance to employ “agricultural production practices that reduce poverty while improving soil health. The bill now heads to the Senate to be reconciled with that chamber’s version, which was approved in June 2021. 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 during February 2022):**
 - [H.R.5724 - White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, Hunger, and Health Act](#): Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY-6) (2/7/22), Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD-8) (2/15/22) & Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-GA-2) (2/15/22) join 18 others.
 - [H.R.2820 - Growing Climate Solutions Act](#): Rep. Sean Casten (D-IL-6) (2/1/22) & Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO-2) (2/9/22) join 71 others.
 - [H.R.2919 - Transform, Health and Renew by Investing in a Vibrant Economy \(THRIVE\) Act](#): Rep. Joseph Morelle (D-NY-25) (2/8/22) joins 65 others.
 - [H.R.2803 - Agriculture Resilience Act of 2021](#): Rep. Melanie Ann Stansbury (D-NM-1) joins 43 others.
 - [H.R.2670 - Civilian Climate Corps for Jobs and Justice Act](#): Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA-17) (2/2/22), Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD-8) (2/2/22), Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-NY-15) (2/3/22), Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI-12) (2/9/22) & Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA-9) (2/15/22) join 30 others.
- **Ancillary bills (new cosponsors during February 2022):**
 - [H.R.2773 - Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2021](#): Rep. Bobby Rush (D-IL-2) (2/8/2022), Rep. Jake Auchincloss (D-MA-4) (2/9/2022), Rep. Jesus Garcia (D-IL-4) (2/11/2022), Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX-35) (2/18/2022) & Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-OR-5) (2/18/2022) join 154 others.
 - [H.R.5459 - School Food Recovery Act of 2021](#): Rep. Raul Ruiz (D-CA-36) (2/8/2022) joins 8 others.
 - [H.R.5249 - Small Farm to School Act of 2021](#): Rep. Kaiiali'i Kahele (D-HI-2) (2/18/2022) joins 4 others.
 - [H.R.4995 - Tribal Wildlife Corridors Act of 2021](#): Rep. Daniel Kildee (D-MI-5) (2/2/2022) joins 1 other.
 - [S.1328 - Farm to School Act of 2021](#): Sen. Angus King (I-ME) (2/1/2022) joins 4 others.
 - [H.R.481 - Flood Resiliency and Taxpayer Savings Act of 2021](#): Rep. Madeleine Dean (D-PA-4) (2/9/2022), Rep. Lizzie Fletcher (D-TX-7) (2/9/2022) & Rep. Thomas Suozzi (D-NY-3) (2/9/2022) join 32 others.

Hearings Held:

[A 2022 Review of Farm Bill Conservation Programs](#) (2/2/2022): This hearing featured Zach Ducheneaux, FSA Administrator & Terry Cosby, NRCS Chief, who highlighted improvements to voluntary, incentive-based programs to better support soil health, farm viability and underserved producers.

[A Hearing to Review Farm Policy with Undersecretary Robert Bonnie](#) (2/8/2022): Undersecretary Bonnie highlighted the [Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities](#) announcement and the need to provide more tools for farmers to de-risk the adoption of climate-smart practices and participate in emerging markets.

Refresher of Recently Introduced Bills:

- [H.R.6163 - Study on Improving Lands \(SOIL\) Act](#): sponsored by Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO-2)
- [H.R.6147 - Driftless Area Landscape Conservation Initiative Act \(DALCI\) Act](#): sponsored by Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-IL-17)
- [H.R.6003 - Veteran and Beginning Farmers Assistance Act of 2021](#): sponsored by Rep. Ann Kuster (D-NH-2)

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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