



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

LAND CORE SOIL HEALTH FEDERAL LEGISLATION BILL TRACKER UPDATE - 3/29/2022

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Here's your Soil Health Federal Legislation Bill Tracker update, based on [Land Core's Bill Tracker](#). [Sign up](#) to get these monthly updates directly in your inbox.

New Feature - Legislators Tab!

We're thrilled to introduce our new legislators tab, where you can see which bills your representative is supporting at a glance! The list displays how many and which bills each lawmaker is sponsoring and cosponsoring, and is organized by chamber (House, then Senate), then affiliation (Democrat, Republican, Independent), then alphabetically by last name. Click on your rep's name to find their contact details, thank them for their support, and share your feedback with their office. We would love to hear your [feedback](#) on this new feature. Explore the [Legislators tab](#).

New Bills:

[S.3892 - Conservation Reserve Program \(CRP\) Improvement Act of 2022](#): This bipartisan bill, introduced on 3/22 by Senators Thune (R-SD) and Klobuchar (D-MN), would amend the CRP, including by increasing the CRP annual payment limit from \$50,000 to \$125,000; providing cost-share for the establishment of grazing infrastructure - including fencing and water distribution - on CRP contracts if grazing is included in the approved conservation plan; and through other adjustments. See [Tracker - Core tab](#).

[H.R.7019 / S.3803 - Rural Prosperity Act of 2022](#): This bipartisan, bicameral bill, introduced on 3/9 in the House by Rep. Craig (D-MN-2) and 3/10 in the Senate by Sen. Kelly (D-AZ), would establish an Office of Rural Prosperity within the White House to carry out a comprehensive strategy for rural development, addressing agriculture-related issues including preserving family farms, increasing employment opportunities in agriculture, and removing barriers to rural prosperity, among others. See [Tracker - Ancillary tab](#).

[S.3743 - Recycling and Composting Accountability Act](#): This bipartisan bill, introduced on 3/3 by Sen. Carper (D-DE), would require the EPA to submit a report to Congress on the capability of the US

to implement a national residential composting strategy, and to collect and publish data on composting and recycling rates across the country. See [Tracker - Ancillary tab](#).

Reintroduced Bills:

[H.R.6935 - Voluntary Grazing Permit Retirement Act](#): This bill, reintroduced on 3/3 by Rep. Smith (D-WA-9), would allow ranchers who hold grazing permits on federal lands to voluntarily retire their permits in exchange for payment. The managing federal agency (USDA or DOI) would then be required to permanently retire the allotment covered by the permit from grazing activity. See [Tracker - Ancillary tab](#).

Bills Advancing through Congress:

[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), is largely aimed at increasing American economic competitiveness and supply chains, but includes international development assistance to employ “agricultural production practices that reduce poverty while improving soil health”. The bill is currently being considered in the Senate. 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 March 2022):**
 - [H.R.6147 - Driftless Area Landscape Conservation Initiative \(DALCI\) Act](#) - Rep. Cynthia Axne (D-IA-3) (3/24) joined 3 others.
 - [H.R.4421 - Farm System Reform Act of 2021](#) - Rep. Nanette Diaz Barragan (D-CA-44) (3/8), Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA-7) (3/9), Rep. Jimmy Gomez (D-CA-34) (3/9), Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN-5) (3/15), Rep. Janice Schakowsky (D-IL-9) (3/21), Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY-14) (3/24) and Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN-4) (3/24) joined 27 others.
 - [H.R.2820 - Growing Climate Solutions Act of 2021](#) - Rep. Tom Malinowski (D-NJ-7) (3/7), Rep. Thomas Suozzi (D-NY-3) (3/15), Rep. Antonio Delgado (D-NY-19) (3/16) and Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-MI-8) (3/24) joined 73 others.
 - [H.R.1548 - Native Plant Species Pilot Program Act of 2021](#) - Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ-5) (3/11) and Rep. Tom Malinowski (D-NJ-7) (3/11) joined 15 others.
 - [S.1244 - Civilian Climate Corps for Jobs and Justice Act](#) - Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) (3/10) and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) (3/10) joined 6 others.
 - [H.R.2670 - Civilian Climate Corps for Jobs and Justice Act](#) - Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY-10) (3/8), Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA-2) (3/8) and Rep. Tony Cárdenas (D-CA-29) (3/8) joined 36 others.
 - [S.938 - Climate Emergency Act of 2021](#) - Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) (3/10) joined 3 others.

- **Ancillary bills (new cosponsors during March 2022):**
 - [H.R.4677 - New York-New Jersey Watershed Protection Act](#) - Rep. Albio Sires (D-NJ-8) (3/1) and Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY-11) (3/15) joined 26 others.
 - [H.R.2773 - Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2021](#) - Rep. Shontel Brown (D-OH-11) (3/3), Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-CT-5) (3/3), Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA-5) (3/3), Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY-18) (3/8), Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-CA-9) (3/16), Rep. Katie Porter (D-CA-45) (3/18), and Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA-13) (3/18) joined 162 others.
 - [S.1734 - National Prescribed Fire Act of 2021](#) - Sen. Alex Padilla (D-CA) (3/14) joined 3 others.
 - [H.R.5309 - Fresh Produce Procurement Reform Act of 2021](#) - Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC-12) (3/11) and Rep. Dwight Evans (D-PA-3) (3/11) joined 3 others.
 - [S.2705 - Tribal Wildlife Corridors Act of 2021](#) - Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) (3/8) and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) (3/8) joined one other.

Hearings Held:

[A 2022 Review of the Farm Bill: The Role of USDA Programs in Addressing Climate Change:](#)

This hearing, held on 3/16/2022, featured testimonies from farm groups, educational institutions and other orgs on how Farm Bill programs can help producers implement conservation practices. Groups called for [more funding for conservation programs](#), conservation technical assistance to allow for more ag involvement in climate efforts, adjustments to crop insurance, and [other key issues](#).

[A 2022 Review of the Farm Bill: Rural Development:](#) During this 3/8/2022 hearing, Undersecretary for Rural Development Xochitl Torres Small spoke to Congress about investing in broadband, reducing barriers to reach historically underserved communities, building supply chain resilience, and supporting producers with climate-smart solutions.

Are we missing anything? [Let us know](#) if there is a bill of interest that we have not added to our Bill Tracker. Share these Soil Health Legislation Updates with a friend or colleague, [explore the archive](#), and [sign up](#) to get these updates directly in your inbox.

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