

# LAND CORE

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

## LAND CORE SOIL HEALTH FEDERAL LEGISLATION BILL TRACKER UPDATE - 5/18/2022

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Here's your Soil Health Federal Legislation update (visit [Land Core's Bill Tracker](#) to see all tracked soil health bills). [Sign up](#) to get these monthly updates directly in your inbox.

### Reintroduced Bills:

**[S.4189 - Agriculture Innovation Act of 2022](#)**: This bipartisan bill, reintroduced on 5/11 by Sens. Klobuchar (D-MN) and Thune (R-SD), would direct USDA to identify, collect, link, and analyze data relating to the impacts of covered conservation and other production practices on enhancing crop yields, soil health, and ecosystem services, reducing risk, and improving farm, ranch, and other working land profitability. The bill expands on several components of the 2018 Ag Data Act, which can be reviewed in the bill tracker. See tracker - [Core tab](#).

### New Bills:

**[H.R.7764 - To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to provide additional payments under the environmental quality incentives program for implementation of a nutrient management practice, and for other purposes](#)**: This bill, introduced on 5/13 by Reps. Harder (D-CA-10) and Costa (D-CA-16), would provide \$750 million to USDA to cover up to 100% of the cost of implementing nutrient management practices under EQIP contracts in 2022 and 2023. The bill does not specify any efficiency requirement for funding eligibility (ie. funding amounts are not tied to any % of reduction). The House Agriculture Committee held a mark-up session on the bill on 5/17. See tracker - [Core tab](#).

**[H.R.7752 - Plant Biostimulant Act of 2022](#)**: This bipartisan bill, introduced on 5/12 by Reps. Panetta (D-CA-20) and Baird (R-IN-4), defines plant biostimulants and requires a study on their benefits for soil health. The bill is aimed at creating a process for approving commercial plant biostimulant use. See tracker - [Core tab](#).

**[H.R.7765 - American Food Supply Chain Resiliency Act](#)**: This bipartisan bill, introduced on 5/13 by Reps. Spanberger (D-VA-7) and Gonzalez (R-OH-16), would establish at least six "Supply Chain Regional Resource Centers" through cooperative agreements with USDA to provide regional supply chain coordination, technical assistance and grants to support small- and medium-sized farms and

agribusinesses. The legislation codifies USDA's recent announcement of its intention to create Regional Food Business Centers (RFBC). See [Tracker - Ancillary tab](#).

**[H.R.7663 - Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Act](#)**: This bipartisan bill, introduced on 5/3 by Reps. Walberg (R-MI-7) and Ryan (D-OH-13), would establish a "Great Lakes basin initiative" to provide grants to Great Lakes States to implement voluntary State verification programs for agricultural nonpoint source pollution prevention, as well as to provide education, outreach and technical assistance to producers to implement conservation practices and reduce environmental hazards. See [Tracker - Ancillary tab](#).

**[H.R.7763 - To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to support and incentivize domestic activities to address fertilizer shortages and deficiencies, diversify fertilizer sources, and reduce dependency on foreign sources for fertilizer, and for other purposes](#)**: This bill, introduced on 5/13 by Rep. Khanna (D-CA-17), would provide \$100 million to increase the availability of innovative fertilizer and fertilizer alternatives, including biological products, and materials or tools to support the more efficient use of fertilizer. See [Tracker - Ancillary tab](#).

#### **Highlighted Resolutions:**

**[H.Res.1079 - Supporting the designation of December 5 of each year as "National Soil Health Day"](#)**: This House resolution, introduced by Rep. Krishnamoorthi (D-IL-8), would designate December 5 as National Soil Health Day and use this day to improve the awareness of US farmers, agribusinesses and citizens about the importance of rebuilding soil health. The bill lists the 6 basic principles of soil health as necessary for its protection. See [Tracker - Resolutions tab](#).

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

**[H.R.2606 - Sponsoring USDA Sustainability Targets in Agriculture to Incentivize Natural Solutions \(SUSTAINS\) Act of 2021](#)**: This bill, which passed out of the House Agriculture Committee on 5/17, was introduced by Rep. GT Thompson as part of a five-bill Republican "climate-smart ag" package, and would allow for private sector contributions to USDA conservation programs and private 'sponsorship' of targeted conservation initiatives. See tracker - [Core tab](#).

**[H.R.2518 - Producing Responsible Energy and Conservation Incentives and Solutions for the Environment \(PRECISE\) Act](#)**: This bill, which passed out of the House Agriculture Committee on 5/17, would recognize "precision agriculture" as a conservation practice under EQIP and CSP, and provide 90% cost-share for precision ag equipment and technology under EQIP, simultaneous loans under the Conservation Loan and Loan Guarantee Program, and payments under CSP. The bill, which was introduced in 2021 by Rep. Hinson (R-IA-1), is part of the five-bill Republican "climate-smart ag" package, but became bipartisan with Rep. Axne's (D-IA-3) cosponsoring in May 2022. See tracker - [Core tab](#).

## New Legislator Support:

Below is a list of Members who have recently added their names and support to bills we are tracking. Use the [Legislators tab](#) to see all the bills your representative is supporting from our tracker, and find their contact information.

- **Core Bills (new cosponsors, May 2022):**
  - [H.R.4421 - Farm System Reform Act of 2021](#): Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL-7) (5/16) joins 36 others.
  - [H.R.2518 - Producing Responsible Energy and Conservation Incentives and Solutions for the Environment \(PRECISE\) Act](#): Rep. Cynthia Axne (D-IA-3) (5/16) and Rep. Troy Balderson (R-OH-12) (5/17) join 6 others.
- **Ancillary bills (new cosponsors, May 2022):**
  - [S.3743 - Recycling and Composting Accountability Act](#): Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID) (5/10) and Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) (5/10) join 9 others.
  - [H.R.2773 - Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2021](#): Rep. Michael Turner (R-OH-10) (5/6); Rep. A. Drew Ferguson (R-GA-3) (5/6); Rep. Thomas Suozzi (D-NY-3) (5/11); Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL-8) (5/12); and Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ-11) (5/27) join 173 others.
  - [S.2372 - Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2022](#): Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) (5/4); Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) (5/4); and Sen. Margaret Wood Hassan (D-NH) (5/26) join 32 others.
  - [S.1328 - Farm to School Act of 2021](#): Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA) (5/10) joins 6 others.
  - [H.R.481 - Flood Resiliency and Taxpayer Savings Act of 2021](#): Rep. Pete Sessions (R-TX-17) (5/11) and Rep. Sean Casten (D-IL-6) (5/11) join 43 others.

## Hearings Held:

[Growing Jobs and Economic Opportunity: 2023 Farm Bill Perspectives from Michigan](#): Field hearing held by the Senate Agriculture Committee on 4/29.

[Hearing to examine opportunities and challenges facing farmers, families, and rural communities](#): Hearing with Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, held by the Senate Agriculture Committee on 5/26.

**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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