

LAND CORE

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

LAND CORE SOIL HEALTH FEDERAL LEGISLATION BILL TRACKER UPDATE - 8.3.2022

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.

Spotlight: Inflation Reduction Act

[H.R.5376 - Inflation Reduction Act](#): This budget reconciliation bill, announced on July 27 by Senate Majority Leader Schumer and Senator Manchin, is the result of ongoing negotiations on the former Build Back Better Act, now reduced and modified from the original proposal. The bill includes nearly \$370 billion in spending on “energy security and climate change” programs, including **over \$20 billion for agriculture conservation programs**. This includes \$8.45 billion for EQIP (while removing the 50% livestock set-aside, and doubling CIG funding to \$50 million), \$3.25 billion for CSP, \$1.4 billion for ACEP, and \$6.75 billion for RCPP, **as well as \$1 billion for Conservation Technical Assistance, and \$300 million for a new NRCS carbon sequestration and GHG emissions quantification program**. The bill is expected to go to the full Senate for a vote this week. See tracker - [Core tab](#).

Spotlight: Regenerative Resolution

[H.R.1234 - Expressing support for regenerative agriculture and other conservation practices to support more sustainable and resilient agriculture, and compensating farmers for providing environmental services](#): This resolution, introduced on July 19 by Rep. Khanna (D-CA-17) following an Oversight Subcommittee hearing on regenerative agriculture, expresses support for regenerative agriculture and conservation practices for resilience, prosperity, climate change mitigation and adaptation. The resolution proposes that Congress pay farmers for providing ecosystem services, support agencies in providing appropriate technical assistance, and publish a series of reports. See tracker - [Resolutions tab](#).

Spotlight: Appropriations

[S.4661/H.R.8239 - Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2023](#): The Senate Agriculture Appropriations bill for FY2023 allocates \$27.1 billion in total funding - (an \$2.3 billion increase over last year, (but \$350 million short of what the White

House requested). This includes funding increases for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), but cuts to SNAP funding. The House version allocates the same in total funding, much of which is broken down along similar priorities as the Senate bill. The Senate bill is under review by the full Senate Appropriations Committee, while the House bill has been approved by House Appropriations. See tracker - [Core tab](#).

New Bills:

[H.R.8527 - Conservation Opportunity and Voluntary Environment Resilience Program \(COVER\) Act:](#)

This bill, introduced on July 27 by Reps. Casten (D-IL-6) and Axne (D-IA-3), establishes the voluntary Good Steward Cover Crop Program (**making the Pandemic Cover Crop Program permanent and available nationwide**) to provide producers a \$5 per acre premium subsidy when they enroll in a covered insurance program and plant cover crops for conservation purposes, reserving \$5 million for technical assistance and outreach. The bill also creates a “Soil Health Pilot Program” to evaluate how similar subsidies can be offered for other risk-reducing soil health practices on an actuarial basis. The bill has been referred to the House Agriculture Committee. See tracker - [Core tab](#).

[H.R.8590 - Small Family Farmer and Rancher Relief Act:](#) This bill, introduced on July 29 by House Agriculture Committee Chairman David Scott (D-GA-13), strengthens the safety net and increases competition and market access for small cattle ranchers. The bill has been referred to the House Agriculture Committee. See tracker - [Core tab](#).

[H.R.8337 - Carbon Sequestration Collaboration Act:](#) This bill, introduced by Rep. Lucas (R-OK-3), directs the Department of Energy, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of the Interior to conduct coordinated research to evaluate terrestrial and geological carbon sequestration. In addition to the focus on research and assessment of geological carbon storage, the terrestrial carbon sequestration component includes soil organic carbon sequestration, including through “agricultural practices and conservation agriculture”. The bill has been referred to multiple committees. See tracker - [Core tab](#).

[H.R.8425/S.4604 - Agriculture Skills Preparation for Industry Recruitment Efforts \(ASPIRE\) Act:](#) This bipartisan bill, sponsored by Rep. Emmer (R-MN-6) and Sen. Smith (D-MN), directs USDA to establish an agriculture training program within the USDA’s existing Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program to fund participation in apprenticeship and internship programs with local agriculture businesses. There is opportunity for the resulting program to incorporate soil health into the training curricula. See tracker - [Ancillary tab](#).

Resolutions:

[H.R.1179 - Recognizing and promoting the role of demonstration farm networks in expanding the adoption of conservation farming practices that improve the health of watersheds and agricultural lands:](#)

This bipartisan resolution, introduced by Rep. Gallagher (R-WI-8), promotes the role of demonstration farm networks in expanding the adoption of soil health and conservation practices, which are recognized for their role in building soil organic matter, increasing water quality and holding capacity, and thus resilience during drought, as well as reducing input costs and financial risks. See tracker - [Resolutions tab](#).

Bills Moving Through Congress:

[S.3743 - Recycling and Composting Accountability Act](#): This bipartisan bill, introduced by Sen. Carper (D-DE), **passed the Senate** on July 28. The bill 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](#).

[S.557 Native Plant Species Pilot Program Act of 2021](#): This bipartisan bill, sponsored by Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME), establishes a pilot program for the use of native plant species for land management on federal lands. The bill was ordered to be reported by the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably on 7/21. See tracker - [Ancillary tab](#).

New Legislator Support:

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

- **Core Bills (new cosponsors, July 2022):**
 - **[H.R.8069 - Reducing Farm Input Costs and Barriers to Domestic Production Act](#)**: Rep. Ted Budd (R-NC-13) (7/15), Rep. Greg Pence (R-IN-6) (7/15), Rep. James Comer (R-KY-1) (7/15), Rep. Barry Moore (R-AL-2) (7/18), and Rep. Daniel Meuser (R-PA-9) (7/26) joined 37 others.
 - **[H.R.7752 - Plant Biostimulant Act of 2022](#)**: Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME-1) (7/27) joined 2 others.
 - **[H.R.2820 - Growing Climate Solutions Act of 2021](#)**: Rep. Daniel Kildee (D-MI-5) (7/7), Rep. James Himes (D-CT-4) (7/7), and Rep. Jay Obernolte (R-CA-8) (7/7) joined 82 others.
 - **[H.R.2803 - Agriculture Resilience Act](#)**: Rep. Jesus Garcia (D-IL-4) (7/29) joined 44 others.
 - **[H.R.794 - Climate Emergency Act](#)**: Rep. Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick (D-FL-20) (7/15), Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA-24) (7/21), Rep. Frederica Wilson (D-FL-24) (7/21); Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD-8) (7/27), Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI-2) (7/27), Rep. Mark Takano ([D-CA-41) (7/27), Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE-At Large) (7/27), Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA-9) (7/29), and Rep. Juan Vargas (D-CA-51) (7/29) joined 53 others.
- **Ancillary bills (new cosponsors, July 2022):**
 - **[H.R.8103 - Harvesting Knowledge Act of 2022](#)**: Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA-17) (7/5), Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY-6) (7/5), and Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE-2) (7/26) joined 2 others.
 - **[S.2372 - Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2022](#)**: Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO) (7/14), Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI) (7/14), Sen. Christopher Murphy (D-CT) (7/14), Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI) (7/14), Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) (7/19), and Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) (7/25) joined 36 others.
 - **[Food and Agribusiness Merger Moratorium and Antitrust Review Act of 2022](#)**: Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA-13) (7/18) joined 6 others.

- [H.R.7468 - SECURE Food Act](#): Rep. Robert Wittman (R-VA-1) (7/20) and Rep. David Schweikert (R-AZ-6) (7/20) joined 3 others.
- [S.3531 - National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy Act](#): Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) (7/25) joined 7 others.
- [H.R.6461 - National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy Act](#): Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR-3) (7/15), Rep. Cynthia Axne (D-IA-3) (7/15), Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY-6) (7/15), Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO-2) (7/15), Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA-13) (7/15), Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA-3) (7/15), Rep. Lucy McBath (D-GA-6) (7/15), Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV-1) (7/15), Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC-At Large) (7/15), Rep. Julia Brownley (D-CA-26) (7/15), Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA-24) (7/15), Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA-27) (7/15), Rep. Sharice Davids (D-KS-3) (7/15), and Rep. Mike Levin (D-CA-49) (7/29) joined 3 others.
- [S.1328 - Farm to School Act of 2021](#): Sen. Jacky Rosen (D-NV) (7/18) joined 7 others.
- [H.R.481 - Flood Resiliency and Taxpayer Savings Act of 2021](#): Rep. Tony Cárdenas (D-CA-29) (7/12), Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA-27) (7/12), Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO-5) (7/12), Rep. Van Taylor (R-TX-3) (7/12), Rep. Mike Quigley (D-IL-5) (7/12), Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY-6) (7/12), Rep. Joseph Morelle (D-NY-25) (7/12), Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA-3) (7/12), and Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-TX-28) (7/15) joined 45 others.

Relevant Hearings Held:

[A 2022 Review of the Farm Bill: Perspectives from the Field - Minnesota](#): The House Agriculture Committee held this field hearing on 7/25 in Northfield, Minnesota.

[A 2022 Review of the Farm Bill: Perspectives from the Field - Washington](#): The House Agriculture Committee held this field hearing on 7/22 in Carnation, Washington.

[A 2022 Review of the Farm Bill: Stakeholder Perspectives on Title XI Crop Insurance](#): The House Agriculture Committee held this hearing on 7/20 in DC.

[A 2022 Review of the Farm Bill: The State of Credit for Young, Beginning, and Underserved Producers](#): The House Agriculture Committee held this hearing on 7/14 in DC.

[A 2022 Review of the Farm Bill: Perspectives from the Field - California](#): The House Agriculture Committee held this field hearing on 7/7 in Fresno, California.

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.

Like our work? Please help us continue our federal policy work by [donating](#) to Land Core.