



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

## LAND CORE SOIL HEALTH FEDERAL LEGISLATION BILL TRACKER UPDATE - JUNE 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 - Two Major Inflation Packages:

**[H.R.7606 - Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act](#)**: This bipartisan bill, sponsored by Rep. Spanberger (D-VA-7), **passed the House on 6/16** and was received in the Senate on 6/21. The bill was originally introduced as the Meat and Poultry Special Investigator Act, but was expanded to include several other bills that address supply chain and inflation issues in the energy and agriculture sectors, including by providing funds for nutrient management and precision agriculture, livestock and poultry processing infrastructure, and domestic fertilizer production; establishing an Office of the Special Investigator for Competition Matters, an Agriculture and Food Supply Chain Resilience and Crisis Response Task Force, and Supply Chain Regional Resource Centers; among other provisions. Bills included in the package include H.R.7606/S.3870 - the Meat and Poultry Special Investigator Act; H.R.7675 - the Strengthening the Agriculture and Food Supply Chain Act; H.R.7763 - To support and incentivize domestic activities to address fertilizer shortages and deficiencies, diversify fertilizer sources, and reduce dependency on foreign sources for fertilizer; H.R.7765 - the American Food Supply Chain Resiliency Act; H.R.2518 - the PRECISE Act; and H.R.4140 - the Butcher Block Act. See tracker - [Core tab](#).

**[H.R.8069 - Reducing Farm Input Costs and Barriers to Domestic Production Act](#)**: This Republican bill, **introduced on 6/15** by Rep. GT Thompson (R-PA-15) along with 37 cosponsors, would provide up to 90% cost-share for adopting nutrient management and precision agriculture practices under EQIP, provide payments through CSP, and guarantee loans up to 90% for the associated equipment. The bill would additionally shield glyphosate from being labeled as a carcinogen, and includes additional protections for pesticide and other input sales, among other measures. See tracker - [Core tab](#).

### Reintroduced Bills:

**[H.R.8085 - Drought Relief through Innovative Projects \(DRIP\) Act of 2022](#)**: This bipartisan bill, reintroduced on 6/15 by Rep. Tom O'Halleran (D-AZ-1), directs USDA to establish a \$10 million annual competitive grant program to remove nonnative plant species in riparian areas and replace them with native plant species. See tracker - [Ancillary tab](#).

**[H.R.8013 - Removing Emissions to Mend Our Vulnerable Earth \(REMOVE\) Act of 2022](#)**: This bipartisan bill, reintroduced on 6/9 by Rep. Ann Kuster (D-NH-2), would establish the "Committee on Large-Scale Carbon Management" in the Department of Energy and a Federal Carbon Removal Initiative, including soil carbon management as a focus (as well as bioenergy with carbon capture and sequestration, and forest restoration, among other methods). See tracker - [Ancillary tab](#).

**Bills Advancing through Congress - Passed House:**

**[H.R.7606 - Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act](#)**: See "spotlight" section above. See tracker - [Core tab](#).

**[H.R.2773 - Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2021](#)**: This bipartisan bill, sponsored by Rep. Dingell (D-MI-12), provides funding for wildlife conservation and restoration activities. The bill was passed in the House and received in the Senate on 6/15. See tracker - [Ancillary tab](#).

**Bills Advancing through Congress - Approved by House Ag Committee:**

**[H.R.4140 - Butcher Block Act](#)**: This bipartisan bill, introduced by Reps. Dusty Johnson (R-SD-At Large) and Spanberger (D-VA-7), would establish a loan program at USDA Rural Development for new and expanding meat processors and finance producer investment to drive competition within the meat packing industry. Additionally, it would allocate grants to entities to increase hiring and processing capacity. The bill was approved by the House Agriculture Committee on 6/14, and was **also included in H.R.7606 - the Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act**, which passed in the House on 6/16. See tracker - [Ancillary tab](#).

**[H.R.7675 - Strengthening the Agriculture and Food Supply Chain Act](#)**: This bipartisan bill, introduced by Rep. Angie Craig (D-MN-2), would create a task force at USDA that would be responsible for "evaluating the stability and reliability of the agriculture and food system as well as identifying specific recommendations to improve the security, safety and resilience of the supply chain", and submitting a report to Congress. The bill was approved by the House Agriculture Committee on 6/15, and was **also included in H.R.7606 - the Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act**, which passed in the House on 6/16. See tracker - [Ancillary tab](#).

**[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, sponsored by Rep. Josh Harder (D-CA-10), 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 was approved by the House Agriculture Committee and sent to the full House on 6/3. See tracker - [Core tab](#).

**[H.R.2606 - Sponsoring USDA Sustainability Targets in Agriculture to Incentivize Natural Solutions \(SUSTAINS\) Act of 2021](#)**: This bill, sponsored by Rep. Thompson (R-PA-15), authorizes accounts at USDA that allow for private sector sponsorship of conservation initiatives. The bill was approved by the House Agriculture Committee and sent to the full House on 6/3. See tracker - [Core tab](#).

**[H.R.2518 - Producing Responsible Energy and Conservation Incentives and Solutions for the Environment \(PRECISE\) Act](#)**: This bill, sponsored by Rep. Hinson (R-IA-1), recognizes and provides support for precision agriculture under EQIP, CSP, and the Conservation Loan and Loan Guarantee

Program. The bill was approved by the House Ag Committee on 6/3, and was **also included in H.R.7606 - the Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act**, which passed in the House on 6/16. See tracker - [Core tab](#).

#### **Bills Advancing through Congress - Referred to Subcommittees:**

[H.R.7765 - American Food Supply Chain Resiliency Act](#): This bipartisan bill, sponsored by Rep. Spanberger (D-VA-7), establishes “Supply Chain Regional Resource Centers” across the country to assist with supply chain coordination in their region. The bill was referred to the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research on 6/8, and was **also included in H.R.7606 - the Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act**, which passed in the House on 6/16. 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, sponsored by Rep. Khanna (D-CA-17), provides \$100 million through the CCC to increase availability of “innovative fertilizer and fertilizer alternatives” and materials/tools that reduce the need for fertilizer. Referred to the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research on 6/8, and was **also included in H.R.7606 - the Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act**, which passed in the House on 6/16. See tracker - [Core tab](#).

[H.R.7752 - Plant Biostimulant Act of 2022](#): This bipartisan bill, sponsored by Rep. Panetta (D-CA-20), defines plant biostimulants and directs USDA to conduct and publish a study on their benefits for soil health. The bill was referred to the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research on 6/8. See tracker - [Core tab](#).

#### **Bills Advancing through Congress - Hearings Held:**

[H.R.1548 - Native Plant Species Pilot Program Act of 2021](#): This bipartisan bill, sponsored by Rep. Cartwright (D-PA-8), establishes a pilot program for the use of native plant species for land management on federal lands. A hearing was held by the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands on 6/14. See tracker - [Ancillary tab](#).

[S.1264 - Resiliency for Ranching and Natural Conservation Health \(RANCH\) Act](#): This bill, sponsored by Sen. Barrasso (R-WY), doubles the maximum term of grazing permits, authorizes use of vacant allotments during extreme weather events, and increases spending on “rangeland improvement projects”. A hearing was held by the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining on 6/7. 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. 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, June 2022):**
  - [H.R.7752 - Plant Biostimulant Act of 2022](#): Rep. Chris Jacobs (R-NY-27) (6/15) joins 1 other.

- [H.R.5724 - White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, Hunger, and Health Act](#): Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA-16) (6/21) joins 22 others.
- [H.R.4421 - Farm System Reform Act of 2021](#): Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA-33) (6/3) joins 37 others.
- [H.R.2820 - Growing Climate Solutions Act of 2021](#): Rep. Dean Phillips (D-MN-3) (6/13) and Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV-1) (6/14) join 80 others.
- **Ancillary bills (new cosponsors, June 2022):**
  - [S.3531 - National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy Act](#): Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) (6/7) joins 6 others.
  - [S.4245 - Food and Agribusiness Merger Moratorium and Antitrust Review Act of 2022](#): Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) (6/15) joins 3 others.
  - [H.R.7765 - American Food Supply Chain Resiliency Act](#): Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ-5) (6/13) joins 2 others.
  - [H.R.2773 - Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2021](#): 14 new cosponsors join during June 2022 for a total of 194 cosponsors.
  - [S.2372 - Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2021](#): Sen. Raphael Warnock (D-GA) (6/23) joins 35 others.
  - [H.R.7468 - SECURE Food Act](#): Rep. Julia Brownley (D-CA-26) (6/8) and Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL-12) (6/8) join 1 other.
  - [H.R.4995 - Tribal Wildlife Corridors Act of 2021](#): Rep. Andy Levin (D-MI-9) (6/7) joins 3 others.

#### Hearings Held:

[A 2022 Review of the Farm Bill: Perspectives from the Field](#): The House Agriculture Committee held this field hearing on 6/25 at Central Arizona College in Coolidge, AZ.

[2023 Farm Bill: Perspectives from the Natural State](#): The Senate Agriculture Committee held this field hearing on 6/17 at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, AR.

[The Role of Climate Research in Supporting Agricultural Resiliency](#): The House Agriculture Committee held this hearing on 6/15.

[A 2022 Review of the Farm Bill: Economic Perspectives on Title I Commodities and Title XI Crop Insurance](#): The House Agriculture Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management held this hearing on 6/9.

[The Western Water Crisis: Confronting Persistent Drought and Building Resilience on our Forests and Farmland](#): The Senate Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation, Climate, Forestry and Natural Resources held this hearing on 6/7.

**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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