



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

**FEDERAL SOIL HEALTH LEGISLATION UPDATE - NOVEMBER 2022**  
**POST-ELECTION EDITION**

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

With midterm elections earlier this month, this edition of our federal legislative update focuses on what we know about the new Congress and early takeaways for the future soil health and agriculture legislation. As always, visit [Land Core's Bill Tracker](#) to see all tracked soil health bills. [Sign up](#) to get these monthly updates directly in your inbox.

Also note below the opportunity to give comments in response to USDA's request for information regarding implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act ag funding - due in one month!

Thanks for reading, and for those of you celebrating, we wish you a happy and restful holiday.  
The Land Core Team

**Spotlight: 118th Congress**

- With the Senate remaining in Democratic hands, Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) told Politico Morning Ag she's "absolutely" planning to stay on as Chair of the Senate Ag Committee. "We have a five-year farm bill to write. This is probably one of the biggest things that Congress will get done in the next two years," she said.
- With Republicans now narrowly controlling the House, it is widely expected that current Ranking Member G.T. Thompson (R-PA-15) will become Chair of the House Ag Committee
- Rep Doug LaMalfa (R-CA) is currently the top Republican on the House's subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry, has [echoed](#) his party's calls for greater oversight of USDA spending, while ensuring that conservation programs don't overemphasize climate benefits over other natural resource concerns.
- While it's expected that there will be significantly less legislation passed in general in this new, split Congress, the historically bipartisan Farm Bill, due to renew in 2023, will likely be one of the few major pieces of legislation to pass.
- A House Republican aide told Politico Morning Ag that House Ag GOPers are planning a series of inquiries into the Biden Administration, now that they have the opportunity to conduct their own oversight hearings. This will likely include a probe into the USDA's \$3.5 billion Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities Program.

- The same aide said Republicans might look to repurpose some of the \$20 billion of IRA funds towards other conservation programs, given a Congressional Budget Office (CBO) finding that USDA wouldn't be able to get the money out the door fast enough.

#### Learn More:

- [House Task Force Pushes for Climate Action in 2023 Farm Bill](#), FERN's Ag Insider, Successful Farming, November 18, 2022.
- [As Republicans Take Command in House, Fight Over 2023 Farm Bill Looms](#), Kristina Peterson, the Wall Street Journal, November 19, 2022.
- [Midterm election's impact on agriculture and feed industry](#), Feed & Grain, November 15, 2022.
- [Agriculture Continues to Watch for Outcome of Midterms: Ag Committee Leadership Changes Could Impact Farm Bill](#), Michelle Rook, AgWeb, November 11, 2022.
- [How the Midterm Elections Will Impact Food and Agriculture](#), Lisa Held, Civil Eats, November 3, 2022.
- [Multiple important ag leaders won midterm re-elections](#), Currey McCullough, RFD TV, November 9, 2022.

#### New and Updated in Land Core's Soil Health Bill Tracker:

- **New Bill:** [S. 5070/H.R.9186 - Relief for Farmers Hit with PFAS Act](#): This bicameral, bipartisan bill, introduced in October 2022 by Sen. Collins (R-ME) and Rep. Pingree (D-ME-1), would establish a program at USDA to provide grants to certain States to deal with PFAS contamination on farms, including through supporting producers directly with soil remediation and profitability/resilience strategies. See tracker - [Ancillary tab](#).
- **Bill Text Now Available:** [H.R. 9121 - Qualified Agricultural Carbon Sequestration Act of 2022](#): Introduced on Sept 30 by Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH-13), this bill would establish a tax credit to incentivize the abatement and sequestration of carbon dioxide (CO2) through agricultural methods. It also includes an "early adopter" credit. See tracker - [Core tab](#).

#### Opportunities to Comment:

- [Request for Public Input About Implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act Funding](#): This set of five questions will inform USDA-NRCS on how to best implement funds received under the IRA through existing conservation programs, conservation technical assistance, and emissions quantification. Comments are due on December 21, 2022.
- [House Agriculture Committee Farm Bill Information Form](#): This brief form asks for areas of strength and weakness from the 2018 Farm Bill, as well as new ideas for the 2023 Farm Bill. We believe the form will close on January 23, 2023.

#### Relevant Hearings Held:

- [Farm Bill 2023: Rural Development and Energy Programs](#): Held by the Senate Ag Committee on November 15, 2022.

### **Global Ag Policy Snapshot - COP27:**

During COP27, which ended on Sunday, food and agriculture played a much bigger role than ever before, including on the [official agenda](#) for the first time. The several noteworthy food and agriculture events, along with the focus on loss and damage, created an opportunity to highlight the importance of soil health as a tool for mitigating the risk and impacts of increasing flood, drought, and other disasters.

The countries at COP27 also [reauthorized](#) the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) to continue for another four years after its initial mandate expired during this COP (after some [uncertainty](#)). Adopted in 2017, the KJWA is the only program to focus on agriculture and food security under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), thus it provides a framework for countries to mainstream agriculture into climate plans, though a [set of organizations](#) felt the reauthorization did not sufficiently broaden the scope of the KJWA to holistically address food systems.

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**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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