

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 10, 2024

The Honorable Glenn Thompson
Chair
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Scott
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Thompson & Ranking Member David Scott,
As the Committee on Agriculture works to advance the Farm Bill through committee and on the House floor, we, the Co-Chairs of the Climate Solutions Caucus, write to highlight 29 bipartisan bills led by members of the Caucus for your consideration.

The bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus is a group of Members whose mission is to work together to combat climate change while protecting the economic prosperity of the U.S. The Caucus is comprised of over 60 Members, split evenly between Republicans and Democrats.

As Co-Chairs, we have maintained the Farm Bill as a priority for the Caucus in recognition of the legislation's role in shaping agricultural policy, supporting farmers, ensuring food security, promoting conservation, and bolstering rural development in the U.S. The effects of climate change are already making significant impacts on agriculture and rural communities. Increased instances of extreme weather events, rising temperatures, shifts in water availability, and growing zones pose serious challenges for both U.S. food production and producers alike. Crop losses, reduced yields, increased input costs, and market volatility impact farm incomes, employment, land values, and food prices across the nation. These challenges require a proactive, integrated approach that promotes resilient agriculture and rural development.

The Farm Bill presents an opportunity to bolster successful programs while implementing new initiatives aimed at safeguarding existing agricultural supply chains, promoting resilient practices, expanding research and conservation, enhancing rural developmental capacity, and diversifying rural energy options. We believe that durable, bipartisan legislation is the best way to achieve our shared goals and are proud to present these initiatives, led by Members of the Climate Solutions Caucus.

Thank you for your leadership on the House Committee on Agriculture. Please see the list of bipartisan bills enclosed below.

Sincerely,



Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



..... THE BIPARTISAN CLIMATE SOLUTIONS CAUCUS

**BIPARTISAN FARM BILL LEGISLATION
PUT FORWARD BY MEMBERS OF THE CLIMATE SOLUTIONS CAUCUS**

Caucus Member names underlined.

SUMMARY: The upcoming Farm Bill presents an opportunity to bolster successful programs while implementing new initiatives aimed at safeguarding existing agricultural supply chains, promoting resilient practices, expanding research and conservation, enhancing rural developmental capacity, and diversifying rural energy options. If included, the 29 bipartisan pieces of legislation outlined below will ensure the United States’ agricultural industry can remain fiscally competitive and environmentally sustainable.

1. Bill Number & Title: [H.R. 6811 – Natural Climate Solutions Research and Extension Act of 2023](#)

Sponsors: Co-Chairs Garbarino (NY-02) & Houlahan (PA-06)

Bill Summary:

- This bill would advance sustainable agriculture practices across the United States by making natural climate solutions a high research and extension priority at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), unlocking federal funding for farmers to protect the environment via land management practices that increase carbon storage and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Committee: HCA

Cosponsors: 1 R / 3 D

Additional Materials:

- [Press Release](#)

2. Bill Number & Title: [H.R. 3815 – Protecting Mushroom Farmers Act](#)

Sponsors: Co-Chair Houlahan (D-PA-06) & Rep. Meuser (R-PA-09)

Bill Summary:

- This bill would require the USDA to conduct a study on the benefits of providing crop insurance for mushroom farmers, including analyses on various threats to production, such as inclement weather and pests uniquely harmful to mushrooms, and their impact on farmers’ ability to grow mushrooms and maintain profitability.

Committee: HCA

Cosponsors: 2 R / 1 D

Additional Materials:

- [Press Release](#)

3. **Bill Number & Title:** [H.R. 3867 – Spotted Lanternfly Research and Development Act](#)

Sponsors: Reps. Morelle (D-NY-25), Langworthy (R-NY-23), & [Co-Chair Houlihan \(D-PA-06\)](#)

Bill Summary:

- This bill would stop the spread of the Spotted Lanternfly by designating it as a high-priority research and extension initiative under the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, which would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to make competitive grants available for research projects related to the mitigation of this invasive species and safeguarding of New York and Pennsylvania's cash crops.

Committee: HCA

Cosponsors: 15 R / 37 D

Additional Materials:

- [Press Release](#)

4. **Bill Number & Title:** [H.R. 3755 – Industrial Hemp Act of 2023](#)

Sponsors: Rep. Rosendale (R-MT-02) & [Co-Chair Houlihan \(D-PA-06\)](#)

Bill Summary:

- This bill would exempt farmers exclusively growing industrial hemp from the burdensome background checks and costly sampling and testing protocols required for farmers growing cannabinoid hemp like that used in the extraction of CBD.

Committee: HCA

Cosponsors: 4 R / 8 D

Additional Materials:

- [Press Release](#)

5. **Bill Number & Title:** [H.R. 1495 – Precision Agriculture Loan Program Act of 2023](#)

Sponsors: Reps. [Panetta \(D-CA-19\)](#) & Feenstra (R-IA-04)

Bill Summary:

- This bill would offer loans up to \$500,000 between 3 and 12 years in length at interest rates of less than 2% and create a list of acceptable precision agriculture technologies approved by the Farm Service Agency and covered by the USDA. This funding would also allow farmers to retrofit existing equipment with new technologies.

Committee: HCA

Cosponsors: 8 R / 10 D

Additional Materials:

- [Press Release](#)

6. **Bill Number & Title:** [H.R. 3871 – Research for Healthy Soils Act](#)
Sponsors: Reps. Gluesenkamp Perez (D-WA-03) & [Young Kim \(R-CA-40\)](#)
Bill Summary:
- This bill would reauthorize USDA high-priority research and extension initiatives through 2028 and amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to include competitive grants to support research and extension activities for research on microplastics in land-applied biosolids on farmland
- Committee:** HCA
Cosponsors: 3 R / 1 D
Additional Materials:
- [Press Release](#)
7. **Bill Number & Title:** [H.R. 3424 – Forest Conservation Easement Program Act of 2023](#)
Sponsors: Reps. Kelly (R-MS-01) & [Kuster \(D-NH-02\)](#)
Bill Summary:
- This bill would help private forest owners protect their land and ensure that durable wildlife habitats remain healthy for generations by permanently conserving private forestland through the purchase of development rights from willing private landowners.
- Committee:** HCA
Cosponsors: 6 R / 9 D
Additional Materials:
- [Press Release](#)
8. **Bill Number & Title:** [H.R. 6821 – the Healthy Farms Healthy Watersheds Act of 2023](#)
Sponsors: Reps. [Kaptur \(D-OH-09\)](#) & [Gallagher \(R-WI-08\)](#)
Bill Summary:
- This bill would establish a pilot program under the Natural Resources Conservation Service’s (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to fight harmful algal blooms through a voluntary nutrient runoff management program in priority watersheds using existing funding.
- Committee:** HCA
Cosponsors: 1 R / 1 D
Additional Materials:
- [Press Release](#)
9. **Bill Number & Title:** [H.R. 5191 – Renewable Energy for U.S. Territories Act](#)
Sponsors: Reps. Lieu (D-CA-36), [Plaskett \(D-VI\)](#), [González-Colón \(R-PR\)](#), & [Kilili Camacho Sablan \(D-NMI\)](#)
Bill Summary:

- This bill would create a grant program for investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy storage, smart grids and micro grids projects as well as training local residents. The grants would be awarded to non-profit organizations and the Department of Energy's National Laboratories would be authorized to provide technical assistance.

Committee: HCA, E&C, SST

Cosponsors: 3 R / 2 D

Additional Materials:

- [Press Release](#)

10. Bill Number & Title: [H.R. 4351 – Broadband Internet for Small Ports Act](#)

Sponsors: Reps. [Plaskett \(D-VI\)](#) & Carl (R-AL-01)

Bill Summary:

- This bill would help small ports and rural economies nationwide by raising their priority for federal grants and loans for work to improve broadband coverage.

Committee: HCA, E&C

Cosponsors: 1 R / 1 D

Additional Materials:

- [Press Release](#)

11. Bill Number & Title: [H.R. 5062 – Specialty Crop Automation and Mechanization Assistance Act](#)

Sponsors: Reps. [Valadao \(R-CA-22\)](#), [Costa \(D-CA-21\)](#), [Panetta \(D-CA-19\)](#), & [LaMalfa \(R-CA-01\)](#)

Bill Summary:

- This bill would make it easier for specialty crop producers to remain competitive in the face of labor shortages by making expensive automation technology more accessible to producers. This bill would create a reimbursement-based cost-share program which would allow growers and processors to invest more in these time-and-money-saving technologies.

Committee: HCA

Cosponsors: 2 R / 5 D

Additional Materials:

- [Press Release](#)

12. Bill Number & Title: [H.R. 5061 – Specialty Crop Domestic Market Promotion and Development Program Act of 2023](#)

Sponsors: Reps. [Valadao \(R-CA-22\)](#), & [Soto \(D-FL-09\)](#), [Costa \(D-CA-21\)](#), & [LaMalfa](#)

Bill Summary:

- This bill would create a program to help specialty crop producers advertise their products for American markets. It replicates the popular Market Access Program (MAP) through USDA's Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS), aiding specialty crop producers in successfully entering niche domestic markets.

Committee: HCA
Cosponsors: 2 R / 4 D
Additional Materials:

- [Press Release](#)

13. Bill Number & Title: [H.R. 4327 – Converting Our Waste Sustainably \(COWS\) Act of 2023](#)

Sponsors: Reps. Costa (D-CA-21), [Valadao \(R-CA-22\)](#), & Pingree (D-ME-01)

Bill Summary:

- This bill would establish a new manure management conservation program that would provide resources for the U.S. livestock industry to modernize technologies and improve water and air quality.

Committee: HCA
Cosponsors: 4 R / 7 D
Additional Materials:

- [Press Release](#)

14. Bill Number & Title: [H.R. 2989 – Save Our Sequoias Act](#)

Sponsors: Reps. Westerman (R-AR-04) & [Peters \(D-CA-50\)](#), Costa (D-CA-21), [Valadao \(R-CA-22\)](#), [Panetta \(D-CA-19\)](#), [McClintock \(R-CA-05\)](#), and [Garamendi \(D-CA-08\)](#).

Bill Summary:

- This bill would give land managers the emergency tools and resources to save the iconic giant sequoia and reduce the severity of wildfires that contribute to climate change by enhancing federal, state, tribal and local coordination, implementing assessments, expedite environmental consultations, and establishing a comprehensive reforestation strategy.

Committee: HCA, HNR
Cosponsors: 30 R / 26 D
Additional Materials:

- [Press Release](#)

15. Bill Number & Title: [H.R. 6690 – Dairy Disaster Assistance Act](#)

Sponsors: Rep. [Valadao \(R-CA-22\)](#)

Bill Summary:

- This bill would ensure that dairy producers impacted by California’s historic storms can access emergency assistance by amending the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act to authorize the use of Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) funds for emergency assistance to dairy producers in the case of livestock relocation and feed crop losses due to natural disasters.

Committee: HCA
Cosponsors: 1 R / 1 D
Additional Materials:

- [Press Release](#)

16. Bill Number & Title: [H.R. 3389 – Emergency Wildfire Fighting Technology Act of 2023](#)

Sponsors: Reps. [Valadao \(R-CA-22\)](#) & Costa (D-CA-21)

Bill Summary:

- This bill would dramatically increase the number of available airlift assets for wildfire emergencies by updating deployment protocols for Containerized Aerial Fire Fighting Systems (CAFFS).

Committee: HCA, HNR

Cosponsors: 7 R / 2 D

Additional Materials:

- [Press Release](#)

17. Bill Number & Title: [H.R. 4018 – Headwaters Protection Act of 2023](#)

Sponsors: Reps. Costa (D-CA-21) & [Valadao \(R-CA-22\)](#)

Bill Summary:

- This bill would increase investment to improve the health of watersheds and ensure private investments benefit downstream communities by reauthorizing the Water Source Protection Program (WSPP) at \$30 million over four years, expanding the list of eligible lands and entities, reducing the non-federal match requirement from 50% to 20%, removing duplicative application materials, and focusing program funding on aquatic-focused efforts.

Committee: HCA, HNR

Cosponsors: 2 R / 5 D

Additional Materials:

- [Press Release](#)

18. Bill Number & Title: [H.R. 4308 – Smoke Exposure Crop Insurance Act of 2023](#)

Sponsors: Reps. [Mike Thompson \(D-CA-04\)](#) & Newhouse (R-WAS-04)

Bill Summary:

- This bill would address the escalating impacts of wildfire by directing the USDA and Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to research the effect of smoke on crops and develop more precise insurance policies to help farmers address smoke damage to crops.

Committee: HCA

Cosponsors: 2 R / 9 D

Additional Materials:

- [Press Release](#)

19. Bill Number & Title: [H.R. 5922 – CROP For Farming Act](#)

Sponsors: Reps. [Lawler \(R-NY-17\)](#) & Slotkin (D-MI-07)

Bill Summary:

- This bill would prioritize payments from the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to farm efforts that reduce nitrous oxide and methane emissions and store carbon in soil and plants.

Committee: HCA

Cosponsors: 1 R / 1 D

Additional Materials:

- [Press Release](#)

20. Bill Number & Title: [H.R. 1473 – Targeting and Offsetting Existing Illegal Contaminants Act](#)

Sponsors: Reps. [Peters \(D-CA-50\)](#) & [LaMalfa \(R-CA-01\)](#)

Bill Summary:

- This bill would address the environmental damage caused by banned pesticides on public lands and ensure those who illegally grow cannabis on federal property using them are subject to stricter criminal penalties by authorizing \$250 million over five years for the Forest Service to use Superfund toxic waste remediation authorities to address environmental damages and raising criminal penalties for banned pesticides use in illegal cannabis cultivation to a maximum of 20 years in prison and \$250,000 in criminal fines, establishing parity with the criminal penalties for smuggling banned pesticides into the U.S.

Committee: HCA, HNR, HB

Cosponsors: 1 R / 1 D

Additional Materials:

- [Press Release](#)

21. Bill Number & Title: [H.R. 5160 – Advancing Research on Agricultural Climate Impacts Act](#)

Sponsors: Reps. [Sorensen \(D-IL-17\)](#) & [Lawler \(R-NY-17\)](#)

Bill Summary:

- This bill would support farmers in combatting extreme weather through improved tracking of farmers' conservation efforts by directing investment in the USDA to develop a standardized method of directly measuring soil carbon and supply producers with technical assistance to conduct voluntary soil carbon monitoring.

Committee: HCA

Cosponsors: 1 R / 2 D

Additional Materials:

- [Press Release](#)

22. Bill Number & Title: [H.R. 4235 – Wildfire Technology Demonstration, Evaluation, Modernization, and Optimization \(DEMO\) Act](#)

Sponsors: Reps. [Young Kim \(R-CA-40\)](#) & [Crow \(D-CO-06\)](#)

Bill Summary:

- This bill would direct the USDA and DOI to jointly develop a 4-year pilot program allowing private entities to partner with federal land management agencies to test wildfire technologies alongside ongoing hazardous fuels mitigation activities and training.

Committee: HCA, HNR

Cosponsors: 8 R / 3 D

Additional Materials:

- [Press Release](#)

23. Bill Number & Title: [H.R. 5657 – NO TIME TO Waste Act](#)

Sponsors: Reps. Pingree (D-ME-01) & [Lawler \(R-NY-17\)](#)

Bill Summary:

- This bill would help reduce food waste by establishing an Office of Food Loss and Waste in the USDA, providing technical support to food recovery organizations, creating a Food Recovery and Distribution Infrastructure Support and Coordination Block Grant Program to develop food recovery infrastructure and innovative food distribution models, authorizing an interagency collaboration on food loss and waste across the U.S. government, expanding grant eligibility through the Community Composting and Food Waste Reduction (CCFWR) program, and initiating a national food waste education and public awareness campaign.

Committee: HCA, HOA

Cosponsors: 2 R / 3 D

Additional Materials:

- [Press Release](#)

24. Bill Number & Title: [H.R. 1459 – PRECISE Act](#)

Sponsors: Reps. Hinson (R-IA-02), [Panetta \(D-CA-19\)](#), Finstad (R-MN-01), & Craig (D-MN-02)

Bill Summary:

- This bill would expand farmers' access to precision agriculture tools by incentivizing private sector financing through existing USDA programs like the Conservation Loan and Guaranteed Loan Programs and increasing cost share and practice payments under EQIP and CSP for the purchase of precision agriculture technology.

Committee: HCA

Cosponsors: 8 R / 10 D

Additional Materials:

- [Press Release](#)

25. Bill Number & Title: [H.R.1472 – Plant Biostimulant Act](#)

Sponsors: Reps. [Panetta \(D-CA-19\)](#) & Baird (R-IN-04)

Bill Summary:

- This bill would direct the USDA and EPA to coordinate on creating a standardized process for approving commercial plant biostimulant use with the goal of developing a consistent and predictable path to market for plant biostimulants, and require more federal research on the technology's benefits for soil health.

Committee: HCA

Cosponsors: 6 R / 7 D

Additional Materials:

- [Press Release](#)

26. Bill Number & Title: [H.R.2385 – ACE Agriculture Act](#)

Sponsors: Reps. [Panetta \(D-CA-19\)](#) & [Feenstra \(R-IA-04\)](#)

Bill Summary:

- This bill would bolster the agricultural leadership of the United States, strengthen American and global food supplies, and help producers tackle pressing agricultural challenges from pathogens and pests, high fertilizer prices, drought, poor soil health, and extreme weather by doubling the authorization of the existing program from \$50 million to \$100 million and expanding the program to address animal and plant pathogens and pests and include projects that help farmers and ranchers use less water; enhance soil health; and mitigate, reduce, and/or sequester greenhouse gas emissions from farms and ranches.

Committee: HCA

Cosponsors: 3 R / 13 D

Additional Materials:

- [Press Release](#)

27. Bill Number & Title: [H.R. 5747 – Crop Insurance Transparency Act](#)

Sponsors: Reps. [Blumenauer \(D-OR-03\)](#) & [Norman \(R-SC-05\)](#)

Bill Summary:

- This bill would improve transparency in crop insurance by requiring the USDA to publicly disclose the names of producers and insurers who receive federal crop insurance subsidies and the amount received.

Committee: HCA

Cosponsors: 3 R / 1 D

Additional Materials:

- [Press Release](#)

28. Bill Number & Title: [H.R.4800 – Growing Access to Environmental Sustainability \(GATES\) Act](#)

Sponsors: Reps. [Panetta \(D-CA-19\)](#) Reps. [Duarte \(R-CA-13\)](#), [Caraveo \(D-CO-08\)](#), [Rouzer \(R-NC-07\)](#), [Costa \(D-CA-21\)](#), [Chuck Edwards \(R-NC-11\)](#), & [Chavez-DeRemer \(R-OR-5\)](#)

Bill Summary:

- This bill would reduce barriers that producers face in accessing agricultural conservation programs by exempting producers that get 75% of their income from farming or related practices (agri-tourism, direct-to-consumer marketing of agricultural products, sale of agricultural equipment owned by person or entity, and other agriculture-related activities, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture) from adjusted gross income limitations that are applied in USDA conservation programs including the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

Committee: HCA

Cosponsors: 5 R / 5 D

Additional Materials:

- [Press Release](#)

29. Bill Number & Title: [H.R.5973 – Continuous Improvement and Accountability in Organic Standards Act](#)

Sponsors: Reps. Newhouse (R-WA-04) & [Carbajal \(D-CA-24\)](#)

Bill Summary:

- This bill would amend the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 to provide a streamlined and predictable process to review and revise organic standards implemented by the USDA every 5 years in consultation with the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) and the best available environmental and ecological data, consumer and market data, organic production and handling practices, organic research, and scientific data.

Committee: HCA

Cosponsors: 3 R / 6 D

Additional Materials:

- [Press Release](#)