

The Growing Climate Solutions Act of 2020

Introduced by Senators Braun, Stabenow, Graham, & Whitehouse

Agriculture feeds and clothes the world. The vast majority of farmers view themselves as stewards of the land, holding it in trust for future generations. They take that stewardship seriously. These are people whose work should be celebrated and supported.

Climate change is increasingly creating weather related challenges for our farmers, ranchers, and forest owners. Various soil health practices such as cover crops, reduced tillage, rotational grazing, and others are known to improve soil health, increase water infiltration, reduce erosion, and improve resilience to extreme weather impacts *while also increasing soil carbon content*. These practices are being successfully implemented by farmers and ranchers, but the adoption is not yet widespread. At scale, we could put substantial amounts of carbon into soil each year. This would be a huge benefit to both growers and society at large. No current carbon removal strategy is more cost-effective, which makes for a critical climate solution.

Farmers should be rewarded for adopting these practices. The free market can connect producers with the increasing number of companies and individuals who want to offset their emissions. Private and public markets for carbon and soil health practices are rapidly evolving and it is hard for producers, especially smaller operations, to trust them and know how to use them. It's also hard for carbon credit purchasers to figure out which markets are effective and trustworthy.

The [Growing Climate Solutions Act](#) (S.3894) is a bipartisan bill designed to help address the difficulties and make it easier for both sides. It is *not* a subsidy by the US government. It uses the USDA as a resource to address the key issues.

USDA Would

- Create a “one-stop shop” website with information and resources for producers and foresters that want to monetize their soil building practices.
- Create certification programs to ensure transparency, and legitimacy. These programs will provide informal endorsement of 3rd party technical assistance and verification providers.
- Partner with all stakeholders to remove barriers and difficulties and provide a report to Congress so that further policy action can be considered. *There is a 1 year comment period provided for Ag community input after passage and before implementation methods are finalized.*

Note: These practices may also become easier to finance through banks as a result of this USDA public advocacy and informal endorsement

Supporters Include:

AFBF
National Farmers Union
American Farmland Trust
NASDA
NCFC
Danone

Cargill
US Cattlemen’s Assn
Society for Range Management
Evangelical Environ. Network
Environ. Defense Fund
Land O Lakes

Audubon
The Nature Conservancy
National Wildlife Federation
World Wildlife Fund



Making it easier



FARMERS	USDA Actions
Farmers need capital to start practices	USDA website connects growers to carbon credit markets
Farmers don't know who to trust in the marketplace	USDA certifies legitimate purveyors and their programs
Farmers may need technical support to do soil health practices	USDA clarifies sources of expertise for producers
Industry professionals in carbon markets often have no Ag/forestry expertise	USDA provides oversight of carbon credit companies and the marketplace
RESULTING IN: New revenues for farmers from voluntary carbon markets.	



Citizens' Climate Lobby

About Citizens Climate Lobby

"Political Will for a Livable World"

Our group is made up of ordinary folks who lobby Congress in person to ask for climate action. We meet regularly with every congressional office. We are nonpartisan, respectful, and polite. Our primary "ask" is always for a Carbon Fee and Dividend type of solution, such as HR 763, the bipartisan **Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act** (EnergyInnovationAct.org).

We currently support the **Growing Climate Solutions Act** because it has bipartisan support and promises to be an effective solution. However, we want to learn from Ag producers about any issues, objections, or potential improvements that could be made. These will all be presented to Congress to help make the bill better for farmers prior to passage and also in the implementation stage.