**Growing Climate Solutions Act Feedback Form**

We all want clean air, pure water and healthful food.

A lot of people are concerned about all the unpredictable and threatening weather we’ve been having the last few years. Farmers and ranchers are stewards of the land that supply all our food. They are on the front lines, experiencing unexpected weather events, droughts, flooding, wind storms, prolonged heat and more. The vast majority of climate scientists say that these naturally occurring events have become both more frequent and often more intense as a direct result of our changing climate. Agriculture has an important role in both reducing the threat of global warming and making our food and fiber system more resilient to it.

Thank you for chatting with me as a Citizens Climate Lobby volunteer. We’re a nonpartisan group of over 180,000 supporters organized across the nation. Our volunteers from over 400 local chapters meet with our congressional representatives’ offices twice a year in June and December and we are known on the Hill as respectful, polite, engaged but not combative advocates. We believe the climate can be a bridge, not a wedge.

While our flagship campaign is supporting a bill called the Energy Innovation Act and Carbon Dividend Act, we're also recommending our volunteers to advocate for the Growing Climate Solutions Act. This is a bipartisan bill that helps producers get paid to implement additional soil health practices into their operations. We believe these practices can be an important carbon sink if implemented at scale, positively affecting our changing climate.

As we continue engaging our congressional representatives, we believe that getting honest opinions from producers like you about the challenges and opportunities is critical. Relaying your opinions and real life experiences to our members of Congress will benefit producers while helping Congress to do the right thing for agriculture as a whole.

**QUESTIONS**

**To get a better sense of who you are as a producer, could you please tell me about the following?**

* **Your Full Name and Job Title**
* **Your organization/farm’s name**
* **Where you are based (County, State)**
* **Your primary business (Specialty/commodity crops, livestock, forestry)?**
* **What, if any, challenges to your operation have happened as the result of the changing weather and have you felt the need to adapt to the changes? If so how?**

**How do you feel about the health and resilience of your soils to changing weather and climate conditions?**

**Examples:** water retention, water infiltration, soil erosion, etc

**Do you use or have you considered using any additional soil health practices? Please comment on your experiences in terms of benefits to your production either financially or in the health of your land?**

**Examples:** Cover crops, no or reduced tillage, crop rotations, compost application, intercropping, relay cropping, alley cropping.

If animals: rotational grazing, pasture or range seeding for diversity/mixed plant varieties, silvopasture (grazing with tree crops or under existing trees)

**Trusted Sources: Where do you get information about developments in agriculture or forestry? Do you consider USDA and/or NRCS to be trusted sources? Please be specific.**

**Examples:** Trade publications or websites, conferences, local ag extension, Industry associations, peer to peer (such as farmers/ranchers you know or a local group of like-minded farmers)

***If you are doing soil health practices*, what type of farmer interaction do you experience? Are there supportive farmers or involved ag professionals for you to bounce ideas off of?**

**Examples:** local farmer group, larger no-till community, ag researchers or academics

**If you have *not* implemented any of these practices, do you feel any of them would provide benefits? If yes, what are the obstacles to implementation?**

**Examples**: Initial or ongoing costs, crop insurance limitations, concern they won’t work, yield risks during changeover period of ~3years, debt ratio makes taking chances too risky, regulations, doesn’t fit your system, lack of support structure such as other nearby farmers who have done it successfully

**What amount of additional revenue stream per acre would help you to decide to experiment with one or more of these practices?**

**Would indirect benefits such as reduced crop insurance premiums, more appropriate crop insurance requirements, or tax or property-tax credits make a difference?**

***Because we are part of Citizens’ Climate Lobby and we want to pass legislation to reduce greenhouse gases and sequester carbon, we would like to hear your take on the following questions.***

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**Growing Climate Solutions Act**

The Growing Climate Solutions Act was designed to incentivize producers to transition to soil health practices by improving access to and awareness of voluntary carbon markets. These markets already exist and will pay producers who voluntarily use practices that improve the level of carbon in their soil.

**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 of the markets.
* 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 the Ag community to give input after the bill passes and before implementation methods are finalized.*

**What is your opinion of the Growing Climate Solutions Act, if you have formed one? If you would like more in depth information, please note that.**

**Outside of agriculture, what out of the following would be the *most* acceptable legislative option to address greenhouse gases at a national scale? (Recognizing that you might not favor any of the options.)**

* National cap-and-trade system ***OR***
* Greenhouse gas emissions regulations ***OR***
* Put a fee on oil, gas and coal at their sources ***OR***
* Put a fee on oil, gas, and coal at their sources, and return all the money to American citizens as monthly dividend checks

**Do you have any additional comments or concerns regarding soil health, economics or practical considerations?**