



Bolstering State and Tribal Climate Action

Recommendations for the upcoming Farm Bill

TITLE II: CONSERVATION

Depending on their region, farmers and ranchers face a unique set of obstacles when transitioning their operations to mitigate and adapt to climate change. State and Tribal governments can help.

The federal government can support states and Tribes in providing funding to producers seeking to reduce emissions, boost soil carbon storage, and improve resilience in regionally relevant ways. Through a competitive, climate-focused block grant program, Congress can jumpstart and boost state and Tribal climate efforts to deliver financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers, encourage producer peer networks, advance research and demonstration projects, and conduct monitoring and evaluation.

AGRICULTURAL CLIMATE CHALLENGES

- States and Tribes that want to support climate action lack resources to develop and implement programs to support agricultural communities on the frontlines of climate change.
- Farmers and ranchers do not have the financial and technical assistance they need to implement practices that store carbon and build resilience.
- Regional and place-based solutions, particularly those rooted in Traditional Ecological Knowledge, have not been prioritized and are critical to address the varying climate impacts on agriculture.

THE FARM BILL OPPORTUNITY

- Provide funding to kickstart and boost ongoing state- and Tribal-led agricultural climate action that is region-specific, including soil carbon practice implementation and monitoring of outcomes.
- Enable partnerships at the local level to develop, modify, or implement climate programs that help farmers and ranchers adapt to and mitigate climate change.
- Ensure equitable access to incentives for historically underserved producers and Tribal governments and groups and improve integration of agricultural practices founded in Traditional Ecological Knowledge.



Establish a block grant program for state- and Tribal-led agricultural climate change mitigation and adaptation.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution to the climate change impacts farmers and ranchers are already facing across the US. Therefore, supporting state and Tribal autonomy helps ensure the implementation of regionally relevant mitigation and adaptation strategies.

As proposed in [HR 7146](#), the upcoming Farm Bill should establish and fund a competitive grant program at the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to incentivize state and Tribal efforts to sequester carbon, reduce carbon emissions, and build resilience in agriculture. Award recipients would address local air and water quality, soil health, and wildlife habitat challenges all while improving the viability of their agricultural operations.

- **Fund the new grant program at \$150 million in FY23** and gradually increase to \$300 million by FY30.
- **Reserve 33% of grant program funds** for grants provided to Tribal governments.

- **Allow states and Tribes to partner** with local agricultural groups, conservation districts, and other organizations to develop, modify, and/or implement climate action proposals.
- **Direct USDA to provide grants between \$7.5 million (to develop or modify) and \$15 million (to implement)** state and Tribal climate mitigation and adaptation strategies on agricultural lands.
- **Direct USDA to prioritize proposals** that include dedicated resources to historically underserved producers, whole-farm transitions to reduce emissions and build resilience, and, for proposals submitted by Tribal governments, Traditional Ecological Knowledge or Indigenous Agricultural Knowledge practices.
- **Require that state and Tribal proposals** be broadly consistent with existing USDA efforts and inclusive of Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

PROGRAM	2018 FARM BILL AUTHORIZATION	FY22 MANDATORY FUNDING	FY22 DISCRETIONARY FUNDING	RECOMMENDED ANNUAL FUNDING	
				FY24	FY25-27
State and Tribal Climate Change Action Grant Program (new)	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$150M	\$200M
				\$250M	\$300M
				FY30 and on	

