



# Citizens' Climate Lobby

## **Invest in America's Farmers, Ranchers and Forest-Owners to Reduce Emissions and Support Economic Opportunity**

The Farm Bill represents the largest investment in our nation's agricultural producers and one of the most significant federal policies impacting the conservation of our nation's soil, land and water resources.

As extreme weather events increase in frequency and strength, we are seeing increasingly devastating effects throughout our food and agricultural systems. Farmers, ranchers, and forest-owners are on the front lines of climate change and have often led the charge in mitigating its effects through resilient and climate-smart practices. However, current Farm Bill conservation, forestry and resilience programs are only meeting a fraction of the need and demand from farmers, ranchers and forest-owners.

CCL urges Congress to seize this opportunity to increase investment in voluntary, incentive-based conservation and climate-smart forestry and farming programs. These programs are critical to the economic stability of our nation's producers as well as our nation's efforts to combat and mitigate the effects of climate change.

First, Congress should take action to protect and build upon the \$20 billion investment in agricultural conservation programs and conservation technical assistance that was included in the Inflation Reduction Act. This historic investment is imperative to supporting many oversubscribed conservation programs that provide farmers, ranchers and forest-owners with voluntary tools to increase profitability, productivity and environmental outcomes.

In addition to supporting and sustaining funding for programs within the conservation title, Congress should look for opportunities to expand natural carbon sequestration through climate-informed forest management and restoration of both federal and non-federal lands.

This includes strengthening voluntary, incentive-based forest conservation programs for private forest owners, increasing federal investments in forestry-related research on tools to improve resiliency of forests and providing adequate funding and policies to monitor and address increasing wildfire, disease and pest threats to our nation's forests.

Noted for its long-standing bipartisan support, the Farm Bill has wide-ranging impacts reaching every community in our country. For this reason, it is also one of the biggest opportunities Congress has to enact meaningful change. We're concerned citizens looking out for our neighbors who do so much to steward our land and we hope you'll do the same. We urge you to take this opportunity to support conservation and forestry provisions that not only improve outcomes for farmers, ranchers and forest-owners, but also for our nation's lands, wetlands and water.