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Bipartisan Bill Will Strengthen Agricultural Data Analysis

AGree's Conservation and Crop Insurance Task Force applauds new legislation to analyze impacts of farm practices

Washington, DC, March 1, 2018 –Today, Senators John Thune (R-SD) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, introduced the [Agriculture Data Act of 2018](#) (S. 2487) to strengthen data management and analysis. AGree's Conservation and Crop Insurance Task Force thanks Senators Thune and Klobuchar for their leadership on this important issue. The new legislation will increase understanding about how farm-based conservation practices impact farm and ranch profitability, soil health, crop yields, and risk.

"This timely legislation will enable the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to work across its many agencies and support researchers in analyzing data and connecting the dots between conservation practices, crop yields, and soil health," Task Force member, Former Deputy Secretary of USDA, and AGree Co-Chair Jim Moseley said. "We applaud Senators Thune and Klobuchar for laying the groundwork to make use of USDA's vast data resources for the benefit of American producers and trusted agricultural researchers."

The Agriculture Data Act of 2018 builds upon recommendations developed by AGree's [Conservation and Crop Insurance Task Force](#) (task force), a group of leading researchers, academics, former USDA leaders, producers, and representatives from farm-based and environmental NGOs. The task force has worked since 2013 to develop innovative strategies to remove roadblocks and increase adoption of conservation practices through federal crop insurance and conservation programs.

The legislation will create a secure data warehouse that would collect and aggregate agricultural data to enable cutting edge research and analysis about conservation practices and economic and environmental sustainability. Other features of the legislation include improved procedures for greater data interoperability, opportunities for producers to voluntarily elect to participate in additional research and data generation activities, and strong safeguards prohibiting the sale of data and requiring published research to release only aggregated data.

The task force looks forward to advancing data analysis systems that help secure multiple benefits for soil health and farm profitability and maintain and enhance our federal risk management programs.

Since 2013, the AGree advisors and partners that comprise the Conservation and Crop Insurance Task Force have been working to drive broader adoption of conservation practices through the intersection of conservation and crop insurance. More information about the task force can be found on [AGree's website](#).

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