



CLIMATE, FOOD + AG DIALOGUE

June 3, 2021

The Honorable Mike Braun
United States Senate
Washington, D.C., 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
United States Senate
Washington, D.C., 20510

Dear Senators Braun and Stabenow,

On behalf of the [Climate, Food, and Ag Dialogue](#) (CFAD)*, **we applaud your bipartisan action on climate change and agriculture.** We strongly believe that the food, agriculture, and forestry sectors must be part of any federal solutions to climate change. Thank you for your leadership.

The Climate, Food, and Ag Dialogue is a diverse and pragmatic group of food, agriculture, and conservation leaders working to promote federal action on climate change. Our members are producers, food and ag company leaders, and civil society organizations. We are working to develop policy proposals in keeping with our [Guiding Principles](#) for federal climate policy.

We see the Growing Climate Solutions Act as one piece of the systems approach that is needed to address agriculture and forestry's role in climate change mitigation and adaptation. This bipartisan bill can help American farmers, ranchers, and foresters participate in carbon markets and access financial rewards for implementing voluntary conservation practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and sequester carbon. Climate change demands ambitious, multi-faceted, and durable federal policy solutions, and this bill is an important start to advancing federal climate legislation that is inclusive of the food, agriculture, and forestry sectors. We hope to see additional bipartisan legislation to advance a systems approach to the climate crisis, recognizing that carbon markets are not a "one size fits all" solution for agricultural producers and just one option for producers to mitigate GHGs.

In order to ensure the success of voluntary carbon markets and improvement of federal conservation programs, a parallel effort to develop and advance scientifically sound and cost-effective verification and monitoring systems for U.S. agriculture and forestry is needed. This will allow us to measure the impacts of markets and conservation programs and practices and thus ensure we are collectively achieving our goals for climate change mitigation. The bill's requirement that USDA conduct an initial assessment of monitoring and measurement technologies is a start to advancing the methodologies, standards, and quantification tools that are currently being invested in to support both public and private climate-agriculture initiatives. **However, more work is needed to ensure these efforts are science-based and outcomes-driven and to leverage current public-private efforts already underway to not make them redundant.** We also acknowledge, as you have recently, that **a greater commitment is needed to ensure more resources are available to expand and strengthen the voluntary conservation programs sought by American farmers, ranchers, foresters, and landowners.**

As noted above, we would also like to see bipartisan legislation and administrative action that strengthen the science and research needed to monitor, verify, and report on agricultural and forestry practices; broaden support for conservation programs, including figuring out how to leverage private sector dollars; and invest in on-farm renewable energy. We see the promise for U.S. farmers, ranchers, and foresters if these critical pieces can be brought to bear.

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We applaud your leadership and stand ready to work with you and other members of Congress from both parties to advance federal climate legislation that engages food, agriculture, and forestry to measurably reduce carbon emissions and curb climate impacts.

Sincerely,

Heather Lair

Staff Director of the AGree Climate, Food, and Agriculture Dialogue (CFAD)

** The Intertribal Agriculture Council does not sign onto this letter.*