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AGree Applauds USDA Strategy to Invest \$300 Million In Measuring, Monitoring, Reporting, and Verifying Climate-Smart Ag

Federal strategy will improve the accuracy of data on conservation practice implementation, GHG emissions, and carbon sequestration

Washington, DC -- Today, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced a \$300 million investment to improve measurement, monitoring, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration in climate-smart agriculture and forestry. Deb Atwood, Meridian Institute Senior Fellow and Senior Advisor to AGree, released the following statement:

"Secretary Vilsack continues to lead with climate-smart agriculture investments that will improve outcomes for communities and the environment. At AGree, we understand the critical importance of improving USDA and the agriculture sector's data capabilities to advance evidence-based policymaking and on-farm management decisions. This announcement supports critical interagency collaboration needed to address complex greenhouse gas and carbon sequestration data issues. We look forward to seeing this work in action and stand ready to support the further development and implementation of a comprehensive data strategy."

For more information about policies that recognize the connection between conservation practices, reduced agricultural risk, and improved environmental and financial performance, <u>read</u> the AGree Initiative's Farm Bill recommendations here.

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About The AGree Initiative

AGree, an initiative of Meridian Institute, focuses on developing innovative and scalable policies and pilot programs that support farmers in improving agronomic and environmental outcomes while adapting to climate change. AGree partners believe there are real opportunities to use federal agricultural policy to incentivize and scale agricultural practices that reduce greenhouse

gas emissions, improve soil health, and enhance water quality while reducing farmer costs and improving profitability.