



## Support for S. 1400 / H.R. 3036, the *Increased TSP Access Act of 2023*

*Introduced by Senators Braun, Bennet, and Marshall / Representatives Baird and Spanberger*

### ENDORSEMENTS:

- ADM
- Agribusiness Council of Indiana
- Agricultural Retailers Association
- American Farm Bureau Federation
- American Farmland Trust
- American Seed Trade Association
- American Society of Agronomy
- American Soybean Association
- Bipartisan Policy Center Action
- Ceres
- Citizens Climate Lobby
- Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions
- Colorado Farm Bureau
- ConservAmerica
- Corteva
- Crop Science Society of America
- CropLife America
- Danone North America
- Ducks Unlimited
- Environmental Defense Fund
- Evangelical Environmental Network
- GROWMARK, Inc.
- Indiana Corn Growers Association
- Indiana Farm Bureau
- Indiana Forestry and Woodland Owners Association
- Indiana Pork Producers Association
- Indiana Soybean Alliance
- International Certified Crop Advisers
- Land O'Lakes
- Land Trust Alliance
- National Audubon Society
- National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
- National Cattlemen's Beef Association
- National Cooperative Business Association
- National Corn Growers Association
- National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
- National Milk Producers Federation
- National Pork Producers Council
- North American Millers' Association
- Organic Trade Association
- PepsiCo, Inc.
- Purdue University
- Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
- Soil Science Society of America
- Sound Agriculture
- The Fertilizer Institute
- The Nature Conservancy
- Unilever United States
- Yard Stick PBC

### QUOTES:

**Agricultural Retailers Association (President and CEO Daren Coppock):** "The Agricultural Retailers Association (ARA) strongly supports the *Increased TSP Access Act of 2023*. As the trusted adviser to the farmer, ag retailers and their Certified Crop Advisers (CCAs) are heavily involved in on-farm conservation planning and implementation. This bill will help streamline the technical service provider (TSP) certification at NRCS and allow our members to leverage the programs and technical expertise of NRCS to make conservation programs available to more farmers and on more land than NRCS could support on its own. We are thankful for our partners at NRCS and the work that they do and we want to work arm in arm with them to conserve America's farmland resources."

**American Farm Bureau Federation (President Zippy Duvall):** "Farmers and ranchers are committed to continually improving the land, water and air entrusted in our care and we have voluntarily committed over 140 million acres across the country to conservation. But we can't do this alone and that's why the

*Increased TSP Access Act* is needed. It would expand the number of partners that farmers and ranchers can depend upon to access conservation programs and help implement additional stewardship practices on the land.”

**American Farmland Trust (Policy Director Tim Fink):** “This is a critical time for conservation with all hands on deck needed to help farmers implement conservation practices in ways that will improve their profitability, resilience, and soil. The *Increased TSP Access Act* will unlock the ability of outside experts to provide conservation assistance to farmers to strengthen their operations while addressing resource concerns like water quality and soil health. AFT thanks Senators Braun, Bennet, and Marshall, and Representatives Baird and Spanberger for their bipartisan leadership in the House and Senate to help the TSP program reach its potential.”

**American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America (CEO Jim Cudahy):** “Since the Technical Service Provider program was established, our Certified Crop Advisers and Certified Professional Soil Scientists have partnered with NRCS to provide conservation technical assistance as trusted advisers to farmers across the United States. Over this time, we’ve also seen a need for the program to be better defined so that more certified professionals can become TSPs, and remain so. We are pleased to support the *Increased TSP Access Act* and continue to work with administrators to improve the TSP Program and ultimately deliver more conservation technical assistance to our nation’s farmers.”

**Bipartisan Policy Center Action (Executive Director Michele Stockwell):** “BPC Action applauds Sens. Mike Braun (R-IN), Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Roger Marshall (R-KS) and Reps. Jim Baird (R-IN) and Abigail Spanberger (D-VA) for their leadership in advancing the *Increased TSP Access Act of 2023*. This bill will allow non-federal entities to be certified as Technical Service Providers and streamline the process for producers to design, plan, and install conservation projects. Access to trusted technical experts is essential to scaling up practices that enhance climate benefits and resilience, as BPC found in a recent white paper on [Leveraging Outreach and Technical Assistance to Scale Natural Climate Solutions](#). The bill will significantly increase the number of these experts available to help farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who choose to participate in the conservation programs advanced through the USDA’s National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).”

**Citizens Climate Lobby:** “CCL supports the introduction of the *Increased TSP Access Act of 2023*. Farmers, ranchers, and forest-owners are on the front lines of climate change, and they can also play a large role in mitigating its effects through resilient and climate-smart practices. As America makes historic investments in agricultural conservation programs, we must make sure that farmers, ranchers, and forest-owners have access to the technical expertise they need to fully utilize these programs. Our volunteers are deeply concerned about the harm climate change is causing to agriculture and across the country, and we applaud Senators Braun (R-IN), Bennet (D-CO), and Marshall (R-KS) and Reps Baird (R-IN) and Spanberger (D-VA) for their leadership on this issue.”

**Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions (President Heather Reams):** “America’s farmers and ranchers are excellent stewards of our lands and have great potential to be influential in the fight against climate change. The *Increased TSP Access Act* will build upon successful efforts in the last Congress—by passing the bipartisan *Growing Climate Solutions Act*—to streamline and increase access to critical conservation programs to help our producers successfully implement climate-smart practices on their farms. CRES applauds this bipartisan and bicameral effort, and we look forward to working to ensure American agriculture can meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.”

**ConservAmerica (President Jeff Kupfer):** “America’s farmers and ranchers are important stewards of our nation’s land. Agricultural production accounts for approximately half of U.S. land use and is vital to

our communities and our economy. Having greater access to technical assistance providers will improve conservation outcomes and result in better forest management, wildlife protection, and water quality. We applaud Senator Braun, Senator Bennet, Senator Marshall, Representative Baird, and Representative Spanberger for their continued efforts to champion the Nation's conservation needs.”

**Ducks Unlimited (CEO Adam Putnam):** “Thank you to Sen. Braun, Sen. Bennet, Sen. Marshall, Rep. Baird, and Rep. Spanberger for introducing the *Increased TSP Access Act*. Ducks Unlimited's agronomists and biologists work closely with NRCS and private landowners to help agricultural producers assess the health of their soil and get the most out of their production. Through streamlining the certification process, this legislation will make voluntary conservation programs more accessible and provide producers with increased flexibility to implement conservation practices on their land.”

**Environmental Defense Fund (Senior Vice President for Political Affairs Elizabeth Gore):** “Technical service providers work with farmers to develop management plans and practices that improve soil health, water quality and deliver other climate benefits. This bill will increase the number of certified providers so that more farmers will have access to the technical assistance they need to integrate climate-smart practices into their operations. We thank Senators Braun, Bennet, and Marshall for leading this important effort.”

**Evangelical Environmental Network:** “The Evangelical Environmental Network (EEN) proudly supports the efforts of Senators Braun (R, IN), Bennet (D, CO), and Marshall (R, KS) in introducing *Increased TSP Access Act of 2023*. We are also thankful for Representatives Baird (R, IN-04) and Spanberger (D, VA-07) for introducing the companion *Increased TSP Access Act of 2023* in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Throughout Fall 2022 and Winter 2023, EEN hosted twelve (12) Farm Bill listening sessions with evangelical farmers across the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic. One common topic reported by local farmers is the gaps in technical assistance to implement conservation practices and best management practices post-adoption. With USDA staff cuts and the regional consolidation of offices, many have turned to Technical Service Providers, other NGO crop advisors and neighbors for trustworthy information. In our meetings, many called for increased support and resources be put towards creating more robust and reliable technical assistance program.

The evangelical farmers we listened to take seriously the Bible's command to tend and care for God's Garden – Genesis 2:15. They know that God owns creation and that the earth was created for, by, and through Jesus the Christ. All of us are but tenants of this beautiful world and responsible for its restoration -- Leviticus 25:23-24 and Colossians 1:16. Evangelical farmers have been leaders in soil health, carbon sequestration, water management and feeding the world. They want to be the good stewards their faith commands them to be and hope the next Farm Bill supports their efforts with a strong Technical Assistance program as Senator Braun proposed.”

**Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association (Executive Director Liz Jackson):** “Access to technical assistance is critical for landowners and leads to greater success when implementing conservation practices. Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association recognizes Senator Braun's leadership to improve the TSP process and make it easier for landowners, providers, and the NRCS.”

**International Certified Crop Advisers (Executive Committee Member Amy Asmus, CCA, RMS):** “The International board of Certified Crop Advisers (ICCA) is eager to support the *Increased TSP Access Act of 2023*. Throughout the process of production planning and implementation, our nation's farmers and ranchers work within a community of stakeholders who help increase the success of on-farm management programs. Since the Technical Service Provider program was established, our Certified Crop Advisers

have been willing partners in assisting NRCS through a team approach. Yet, we have seen a need to streamline the TSP certification process in order to leverage the education and experience of CCAs to more readily provide this technical assistance. This more formal partnership will ultimately expedite conservation practices and help to preserve America's farmland resources."

**National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (President & CEO Chuck Conner):** "The National Council of Farmer Cooperatives strongly supports this effort by Senators Braun, Bennet, and Marshall, and Representatives Baird and Spanberger to strengthen the technical service provider program by leveraging the expertise of the private sector with trust farmers have in USDA. It is especially important that the bill recognizes the unique role that co-ops play in American agriculture and the direct relationship they have with hundreds of thousands of farmers across the country. By expanding access to the expertise needed to address a range of on-farm resource concerns, this bill helps ensure the long-term sustainability and economic vitality of America's farms and ranches."

**Purdue University (Executive Vice President for Research Dr. Karen Plaut):** "We congratulate Sen. Braun and Rep. Baird for introducing the *Increased TSP Access Act*, broadening the set of experts focused on conservation and a more sustainable food system - including many educated by the nation's Land Grant Universities such as Purdue. We look forward to continuing to work with Congress and other public and private sector partners to solve food, agricultural and natural resource management challenges."

**Truterra, Land O'Lakes' Sustainability Business (President Tom Ryan):** "Every day, farmers across the country turn to their trusted retail agronomists for advice. This new legislation would provide farmers expanded access to local agronomists and ag retailers who can provide conservation expertise as part of their total agronomic plan. Truterra, the sustainability business of Land O'Lakes, Inc., has developed unique, collaborative projects to help farmers across the nation adopt conservation practices and scale-up their on-farm conservation systems. We support expanding the number and availability of TSPs because it will enable us to help the federal government meet the high demand for conservation delivery services. Land O'Lakes appreciates the leadership of U.S. Senators Braun, Bennet and Marshall, as well as U.S. Representatives Baird and Spanberger, in expanding the conservation delivery system by increasing access to private sector resources."

***For more information or to cosponsor the bill, please contact:***

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