



***Increasing Land Access, Security, and Opportunities Act
H.R.3955 & S.2340***

Partner Action Toolkit

As Congress continues to develop and debate the next Farm Bill, we need your help to keep the pressure on! Please join us in advocating for a meaningful investment in addressing land access challenges facing young and underserved farmers!

While the timing of the next Farm Bill remains uncertain, we know the change we need, and we can't let policy makers forget that the time is now for ensuring there is a meaningful source of land access funding that truly works for our communities. The *Increasing Land Access, Security, and Opportunities Act* (H.R.3955, S.2340), which was introduced in the Senate by

Senator Tina Smith (D-MN) and in the House with bipartisan support by Representatives Nikki Budzinski (D-IL-13), Zach Nunn (R-IA-03), Joe Courtney (D-CT-02) and Abigail Spanberger (D-VA-07), would expand the promise of the *Land, Capital, and Market Access Program* and authorize \$100 million in annual funding for community-led land access solutions through the next Farm Bill.

Your voices have helped envision and shape this legislation, and now is the moment we need your support to ensure this historic funding becomes part of the next Farm Bill. This toolkit contains information about the marker bills, how to sign on in support, sample social media language, an op-ed template, and our press releases. With your support, we can activate our networks to join us in calling on our members of Congress to support this monumental bill.

Need support sharing any of this information on social media? Please reach out to Young Farmers Communications Manager, Lytisha Wyatt, with any questions at lytisha@youngfarmers.org.

How Your Organization Can Engage

Update November 2023 - [here is a current overview](#) of three steps organizations that want to support LASO can take now! (All the actions below still apply, too!)

1. Sign on to our [letter of support](#)

We are asking organizations and corporate partners to sign on to our letter of support. See our [landing page](#) for more information about who is signed on (over and to read the full text of the letter.

SIGN-ON UPDATE: [On September 20, 2023, we sent this letter](#) to House and Senate Agriculture Committee Leadership with 175 organizations signed on in addition to Young Farmers. We are continuing to accept sign ons and will add your organization to our landing page (linked below).

We are at a total of 213 sign-ons! We will share support for this legislation with members of Congress as our advocacy efforts continue until the farm bill is passed and implemented. Please reach out to our policy team (policy@youngfarmers.org) with any questions. Thank you!

SIGN ON HERE

2. Share the sign-on letter

Encourage other organizations in your networks to join you in signing on. *Here is [our email template](#) for ease of sharing.*

3. Share our [action alert](#)

Encourage individuals in your networks to [take our action](#) urging their members of Congress

to co-sponsor H.R. 3955 & S.2340.

4. Share a partner post

Help us spread the word about the bill on social media, using the sample language and graphics we have created below.

5. Draft an op-ed

Using [our template](#). Contact our communications team for support with getting the op-ed placed in the press (press@youngfarmers.org).

6. Contact your member of Congress directly

Tell them about your support of the bill, ask them to co-sponsor, and see if they will meet with you to talk further about the need. Our policy team (policy@youngfarmers.org) can help you and provide talking points if desired. See [below for a sample outreach email](#).

7. Encourage individuals in your network to [sign up for our Farm Bill Rapid Response Network](#) so that they don't miss next steps to support equitable land access, racial equity, climate justice, farmer mental health support, and USDA access and accountability in the next Farm Bill.

Overview of the Bill

- **One-pager:** [Young Farmers One Pager](#)
- **Bill text:** [House bill text](#) and [Senate bill text](#)
- **Press releases**
 - Young Farmers [House bill press release](#) and [Senate bill press release](#)
 - [Press Release from Representative Nikki Budzinski](#)
 - [Press Release from Senator Tina Smith](#)
- **Congress.gov:** House bill [Congress.gov bill page](#) & Senate bill [Congress.gov page](#)
- **Sign-on:** [Young Farmers Bill Sign-On Landing Page](#)

Policy Info

The *Increasing Land Access, Security, and Opportunity Act* has been introduced in the House as H.R.3955 with bipartisan support by Representatives Budzinski (D-IL-13), Nunn (R-IA-03), Courtney (D-CT-02), and Spanberger (D-VA-07). A companion bill by the same name, S.2340, has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Tina Smith (D-MN). **We are currently focused on encouraging additional Representatives and Senators to sign on to the respective bills.**

Talking Points

- **There is an incredible need for federal funding to support the work we're doing here in [LOCAL AREA] to address challenges of land access, retention, and transition for farmers and ranchers.** The design of the program that would be created by the *Increasing*

Land Access, Security, and Opportunities Act (H.R.3955, S.2340) clearly reflects the complexity of the challenges we are facing and brings money to the table that can support creative solutions.

- Millions of acres of agricultural land are changing hands as farmers and ranchers across the country age out and retire. At the same time, land access is the top challenge facing the next generation. **This is the moment for Congress to take action and ensure that the next Farm Bill delivers material benefits for historically underserved farmers, ranchers, and forest owners striving to establish and grow their operations.** The *Increasing Land Access, Security, and Opportunities Act* (H.R.3955, S.2340) is a critical tool to help support equitable farm transition to the next generation.
- Equitable access to affordable, quality farmland is a foundational need of growers and land stewards across the country. **Investing in land access, retention, and transition for farmers is an insurance policy for all other public dollars spent by Congress in the next Farm Bill.** The *Increasing Land, Security, and Opportunities Act* (H.R.3955, S.2340) **elevates locally-led solutions** that will keep farmers on the land and benefiting from farm bill programs.
- **Secure, equitable access to land is critical for food security, and an investment in secure access to land in the next farm bill will generate immense returns for taxpayers.** The *Increasing Land Access, Security, and Opportunities Act* (H.R.3955, S.2340) makes a critical investment in locally-led solutions that support farmers and ranchers in increasing food access, strengthening local supply chains, growing rural economies, and building climate resilience.
- **The *Increasing Land Access, Security, and Opportunities Act* (H.R.3955, S.2340) offers flexible, powerful support for community-led solutions to the land access, retention, and transition crisis.** This funding would provide critical resources to a wide variety of eligible applicants, helping make innovative solutions a reality.

Social Media Posts and Graphics

Social Media Graphics: [Here is the link to a Google drive folder with graphics](#)
Call to Action: <https://youngfarmers.quorum.us/campaign/2024-farm-bill/>

Tag Young Farmers:

- Instagram: @youngfarmers
- Facebook: @youngfarmerscoalition
- Twitter: @youngfarmers

Hashtags: #youngfarmers, #farmbill, #landaccess, #LandAccessNow, #OneMillionAcres

Tag the **lead legislators** and your **members of Congress**:

- Original sponsors:
 - Senator Tina Smith (D-MN)
 - Twitter: @SenTinaSmith
 - Instagram: @senatortinasmith
 - Facebook: @USSenTinaSmith
 - Representative Nikki Budzinski (D-IL-13)
 - Twitter: @RepNikkiB
 - Instagram: @repnikki
 - Facebook: @RepNikkiBudzinski
 - Representative Zach Nunn (R-IA-03)
 - Twitter: @ZachNunn
 - Instagram: @repzachnunn
 - Facebook: @RepZachNunn
 - Representative Joe Courtney (D-CT-02)
 - Twitter: @RepJoeCourtney
 - Instagram: @repjoecourtney
 - Facebook: @joecourtney
 - Representative Abigail Spanberger (D-VA-07)
 - Twitter: @repspanberger
 - Instagram: @abigailspanberger
 - Facebook: @RepSpanberger
- Tag Senate/House Agriculture Committees:
 - Twitter: @HouseAgDems @HouseAgGOP @SenateAgDems @SenateAgGOP
 - Instagram: @houseagdems @houseaggop @senateaggop (there is not currently a Senate Ag Dems account)
 - Facebook: @HouseAgGOP @senateagGOP (no accounts for House or Senate Ag Dems)
- Some tips for finding the social media handles of your members of Congress:
 - First try @ + their full name (i.e. @kamalaharris)
 - If that doesn't work, try using @+ Senator or Representative (i.e. @SenWarren) or Googling Twitter/Facebook/Instagram + their name
 - Thanks to the National Kidney Foundation for putting together this list: <https://advocacy.kidney.org/congressional-social-media-accounts/>
 - For Twitter handles, visit <http://www.tweetcongress.org/tweeters>

Instagram/Facebook posts:

Option 1	Young farmers need equitable #LandAccessNow! That is why we are joining @youngfarmers/@youngfarmerscoalition in calling on Congress to support the Increasing Land Access, Security, and Opportunities Act (H.R.3955, S.2340). #Landaccess is the top challenge #youngfarmers face, and this bipartisan marker bill
-----------------	---

	would make \$100M of funding for land access available to young and BIPOC farmers each year through the next #FarmBill. Tell your members of Congress to support this bill! https://youngfarmers.quorum.us/campaign/2024-farm-bill/
Option 2	We are proud to join @youngfarmers/@youngfarmerscoalition and a broad coalition of farm advocates in calling on Congress to support the Increasing Land Access, Security, and Opportunities Act (H.R.3955, S.2340) in the next #FarmBill. This bipartisan marker bill would expand the success of the Land, Capital, and Market Access Program, and authorize \$100 million in annual funding for community-led land access solutions through the next Farm Bill. Join us in telling Congress to support these important #landaccess solutions. https://youngfarmers.quorum.us/campaign/2024-farm-bill/
Option 3	We need funding for community-led #landaccess solutions in the next #FarmBill. That is why we are joining @youngfarmers/@youngfarmerscoalition in calling on Congress to support the Increasing Land Access, Security, and Opportunities Act (H.R.3955, S.2340). This bipartisan marker bill would make \$100M of funding for land access available to young and BIPOC farmers each year through the next Farm Bill. Tell your members of Congress to support this bill! https://youngfarmers.quorum.us/campaign/2024-farm-bill/
Option 4: Example Post for Corporate Partners and Funders	We are proud supporters of @youngfarmers/@youngfarmerscoalition and their #OneMillionAcres campaign to equitably transition farmland to the next generation. Join us in calling on Congress to support the Increasing Land Access, Security, and Opportunities Act (H.R.3955, S.2340) in the next #FarmBill. This bipartisan marker bill would expand the success of the Land, Capital, and Market Access Program, and authorize \$100 million in annual funding for community-led land access solutions through the next Farm Bill. Join us in telling Congress to support these important #landaccess solutions! https://youngfarmers.quorum.us/campaign/2024-farm-bill/

Twitter posts:

Option 1	We need funding for community-led #landaccess solutions in the next #FarmBill. That's
-----------------	---

	why we're joining @youngfarmers in calling on Congress to support the Increasing Land Access, Security, & Opportunities Act. Tell your reps to support the bill! https://youngfarmers.quorum.us/campaign/2024-farm-bill/
Option 2	#Landaccess is the top challenge #youngfarmers face. The Increasing Land Access, Security, & Opportunities Act would make \$100M for land access available to young & BIPOC farmers every year through the next #FarmBill. Tell Congress to support this bill! https://youngfarmers.quorum.us/campaign/2024-farm-bill/
Option 3: Example Post for Corporate Partners and Funders	We are proud to join @youngfarmers in their campaign for equitable #landaccess! Join us in telling Congress to support the LASO Act to make \$100M for land access available to young & BIPOC farmers every year through the next #FarmBill. https://youngfarmers.quorum.us/campaign/2024-farm-bill/

Op-ed Template

Here is an [op-ed template](#) we created for partners to use to draft their own.

Press Release

Feel free to reference [Young Farmers release](#) as sample language.

Sample Email to Member of Congress

To	
Cc	
Bcc	
Subject	Please Support the Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access Program (H.R.3955, S.2340) in the Next Farm Bill

Hello [name of staffer(s)]

I am reaching out in regards to the *Increasing Land Access, Security, and Opportunity Act* ([H.R.3955](#), [S.2340](#)). This bill makes the necessary investment to secure access to land in the next farm bill that will generate immense returns for taxpayers—increasing food access, strengthening local supply chains, supporting farmer well-being, growing rural economies, and building climate resilience.

[Insert short introduction to your organization, location, a bit about your work, and why this bill is important to you; e.g. “We are an organization working with ___ farmers on ___ issues in your district. Land access, retention, and transition are concerns for the producers we serve.]

[If your member of Congress was an original co-sponsor (Reps Budzinski (IL), Spanberger (VA), Nunn (IA), or Courtney (CT), and Senator Tina Smith (D-MN)), or is [signed on to the bill](#), insert thanks for their support.]

This bill would prioritize projects that provide direct financial assistance to producers, involve collaborative networks or partnerships, utilize innovative land access and farmland protection and affordability tools, facilitate transition of farmland from existing producers to the next generation, and incorporate other factors that will compound the program's impact.

This bill has the opportunity to fill a huge gap in funding as part of USDA's support for regional food systems. The BFRDP, 2501, LAMP and other programs all support training and market development for farmers, but none of them support the foundation of any farm business and that is land access. This funding would give states and partners the ability to design local solutions to land access for beginning farmers.

[If your member of Congress has not signed on to support] We need leadership from both sides of the aisle and in both chambers to move this bill forward in Congress right now. Will your office consider [for Representatives: co-sponsoring H.R.3955 / for Senators: co-sponsoring S.2340]?

Could we schedule a time to meet in the next few weeks either over zoom or in district? I would like to talk to you both about how important it is for [your state's] [Senator/Representative's name] to tackle real solutions to land access for underserved producers in the next Farm Bill and how legislation like this can be a driver of positive change in your district.

[Here is a one-pager](#) about the *Increasing Land Access, Security, and Opportunities Act*, including contact information for the offices involved in leading this legislative effort.

Take care and I look forward to your response,

[your name]

News Coverage

July 28, 2023 — National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, “[USDA Announces \\$300 Million in Awards to Support Access to Land, Capital, and Markets for Beginning and Underserved Farmers](#)”

June 22, 2023 — AgriPulse, “[USDA picks projects for \\$300M land access program for underserved producers](#)”