

UUs Gathered for Climate Advocacy in DC

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[From UUs for Social Justice Newsletter](#)



Unitarian Universalists came together in Washington, DC, in late September, to advocate for systemic changes in addressing the climate crisis. We used the farm bill as a vehicle for our

advocacy conversations. We learned how farming and ranching can provide essential opportunities in addressing the climate crisis. We asked for conservation and climate-smart agriculture as well as equitable USDA programs.

Attendees heard from inspiring and informative speakers in the field Scott Faber, Environmental Working Group; Lloyd Wright, U.S. Department of Agriculture (retired); Joe Van Wye, Farm Action; Karyn Bigelow, Creation Justice Ministries; and Madison Mayhew, Interfaith Power & Light. [See the speakers' page.](#)

On Capitol Hill, [Congresswoman Chellie Pingree \(D-ME-1\)](#) briefed us on her bill, the Agriculture Resilience Act ([H.R.5861](#) / S.1016) to address national greenhouse gas emission reduction efforts in the U.S. agriculture sector, including a national goal to achieve net-zero emissions by the year 2040. We were also joined by A.V. Whitney, of New Jersey Senator Cory Booker's office, who shared comments on the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and his related bill [EQIP Improvement Act of 2023 \(S.658\)](#). Geoff Horsfield from the Environmental Working Group also shared insight on how to approach Senate agriculture staff.

UU constituents met with their Senate offices, Democrats and Republicans, many on the Senate Agriculture Committee. UU Ministry for Earth (UUMFE) movement chaplains helped put front and center our progressive faith-based values and principles in our conversations. We communicated our deep concern for the interdependent web of life. We shared our desire to see farmers offered the tools and programs needed to become partners in addressing the climate crisis. We shared that we see no division between people and the planet.

Send a message in support of strong climate provisions in the Farm Bill

The 2023 Farm Bill presents a vital opportunity to create a food and agricultural system that provides healthy food for all while helping to avoid a climate crisis and improving equity for consumers and producers. A climate-smart farm bill can achieve many important goals: protecting soil fertility, improving water quality, helping farmers cope with extreme weather, and saving energy. The farm bill must help small-scale distressed farmers and ranchers with loan assistance, including disadvantaged farmers harmed by past discrimination by the USDA. [Action Alert](#)