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May 22, 2013

Raise Your Voice: Tell Your Senator to Support Climate Change Amendments to the Farm Bill!

We don't get many chances like these. This week we have a once-every-five-years opportunity to get our nation's food and farm policy — and the future of the food we eat and the farmers who grow it — onto a more sustainable track.

Got five minutes? We need your help!

This week the Senate is debating a new 2013 Farm Bill, and there are two key climate change and agriculture amendments that need your support.

Whitehouse-Udall Regional Conservation Partnership Program Amendment #1058:

Senator Whitehouse (D-RI) and Senator Udall (D-UT) have introduced this amendment that would expand the list of eligible activities within the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) to include projects with *climate change benefits*. The RCPP is a program consolidates four existing programs, providing resources for farmers and ranchers to address conservation issues of concern. The purpose is

to improve targeting of critical issues of conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of soil, water, wildlife, and related natural resources on a regional or watershed scale. Including climate change as an area of focus will support projects with producers that address reducing greenhouse gas emissions, sequestering carbon and adapting to a changing climate.

Sense of the Senate Resolution #1029:

Senator Whitehouse is offering a resolution that expresses that it's the sense of the Senate that climate change research is based on sound practices, a scientific consensus exists that humans are contributing to climate change, and that climate change poses a risk to agriculture and related industries. This is a common sense and timely resolution.

Among the hundreds of amendments the Senate will debate in the coming days, these two stand out – they have the potential to provide focused resources and attention to issues of climate change and agriculture.

We need YOU to call today!

Here's the contact info for California's two Senators:

Senator Dianne Feinstein: (202) 224-3841

Senator Barbara Boxer: (202) 224-3553

Calling is easy – just dial the numbers above and leave a message like this one below with the person who answers the phone:

“Hello, my name is _____ and I'm a constituent and a voter (and tell them if you're a farmer!). I would like to leave a message for the Senator 's agriculture staffer. Can you take a message for me, please? The message is: I urge the Senator to support amendment number 1058 from Senators Whitehouse and Udall. The amendment makes an important step forward on supporting farmers in addressing climate change issues. I'm also calling in support of Senator Whitehouse's Senate resolution on climate change, number 1029. Both will be part of the farm bill floor debate this week. Thank you.”

We won't get a better farm bill – and, with it, a better future for our nation's food, farmers, air, soil, and water - without your help. Make that quick call right now - and help us spread the word!

Thanks for all you do!

P.S. When you call, tell us how it went! Email us at info@calclimateag.org.

P.P.S. Need a little refresher on the sometimes-confusing Farm Bill process? Check out the [handy infographic](#) put together by the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC). Looking for a bit more information on amendments? Check out [NSAC's rundown](#) of what's at stake.