

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6232

To establish an interagency committee on soil carbon sequestration research,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 6, 2023

Ms. MCCLELLAN (for herself and Mr. LAWLER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish an interagency committee on soil carbon
sequestration research, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Coordination for Soil
5 Carbon Research and Monitoring Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SOIL CARBON RESEARCH AND MONITORING.**

7 (a) INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established an
2 interagency committee to be known as the “Inter-
3 agency Committee on Soil Carbon Research” (in this
4 section referred to as the “Interagency Committee”),
5 to be led by the Office of Science and Technology
6 Policy and composed of representatives from the fol-
7 lowing:

8 (A) The Department of Agriculture.

9 (B) The Department of Energy.

10 (C) The Department of the Interior.

11 (D) The Environmental Protection Agency.

12 (E) The United States Geological Survey.

13 (F) The National Oceanic and Atmos-
14 pheric Administration.

15 (G) The National Science Foundation.

16 (H) The National Aeronautics and Space
17 Administration.

18 (I) The White House Environmental Jus-
19 tice Advisory Council.

20 (J) The National Institute of Standards
21 and Technology.

22 (K) Such other Federal agencies as the Di-
23 rector of the Office of Science and Technology
24 Policy determines appropriate.

1 (2) DUTIES.—The Interagency Committee
2 shall—

3 (A) develop a cross-agency strategic plan
4 for Federal research, development, and deploy-
5 ment regarding soil carbon sequestration sam-
6 pling and measurement methodologies, meas-
7 urement and monitoring technologies, and com-
8 munity needs;

9 (B) propose roles and responsibilities to
10 each Federal agency to advance soil carbon se-
11 questration research and monitoring;

12 (C) oversee working groups established
13 under this section;

14 (D) as appropriate, seek to consult with
15 Federal agencies and with the Office of Man-
16 agement and Budget regarding planning and
17 budget review, respectively, concerning matters
18 relating to Federal soil carbon sequestration re-
19 search and monitoring;

20 (E) submit to Congress a baseline report
21 on existing soil carbon sequestration research
22 and monitoring activities;

23 (F) submit to Congress progress reports
24 on soil carbon sequestration research and moni-

1 toring activities at one-, three-, and five-year in-
2 tervals;

3 (G) encourage coordination between Fed-
4 eral agencies and evaluate soil carbon seques-
5 tration monitoring activities, data collection on
6 soil carbon and greenhouse gas (GHG) fluxes,
7 and long-term storage protocols for soil carbon;

8 (H) support comprehensive reporting on
9 soil carbon sequestration related activities based
10 on a standardized integration of existing and
11 new relevant data collection efforts across Fed-
12 eral agencies;

13 (I) share recommendations for review and
14 input with soil science experts from academia,
15 private industry, and nonprofit organizations
16 that represent the geographic, operational, and
17 demographic diversity of United States agri-
18 culture; and

19 (J) designate a member of the Interagency
20 Committee to collaborate with Federal agency
21 heads on soil carbon sequestration research and
22 monitoring activities.

23 (3) WORKING GROUPS.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Interagency Com-
25 mittee may, as appropriate and necessary, es-

1 tablish working groups to coordinate on cross-
2 cutting priorities on soil carbon research as de-
3 termined by the Interagency Committee, includ-
4 ing relating to the following:

5 (i) Monitoring, Reporting, and
6 Verification (MRV).

7 (ii) Data collection and management,
8 with a focus on measurement standards,
9 standards for use of new technologies, and
10 data architecture for accessibility across
11 agencies.

12 (iii) Fundamental research, including
13 regarding soil carbon dynamics, plant
14 breeding, and soil amendments.

15 (iv) Community engagement in re-
16 search development and dissemination of
17 results, particularly with historically under-
18 served and disadvantaged groups.

19 (B) DUTIES.—Working groups established
20 pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall—

21 (i) identify ongoing research and mon-
22 itoring efforts on soil carbon at each Fed-
23 eral agency represented in each such work-
24 ing group;

1 (ii) identify gaps in current efforts on
2 soil carbon sequestration research and
3 monitoring;

4 (iii) outline current collaboration
5 across agencies on soil carbon sequestra-
6 tion research and monitoring;

7 (iv) propose coordinated projects and
8 budget requests to advance the field of soil
9 carbon sequestration research and moni-
10 toring;

11 (v) engage with and conduct outreach
12 to agricultural communities and producers,
13 particularly those historically underserved,
14 to ensure soil carbon sequestration re-
15 search and monitoring is rooted in stake-
16 holder engagement and on-the-ground per-
17 spectives;

18 (vi) engage with research and exten-
19 sion soil scientists, private industry, non-
20 profit organizations, and other inter-
21 disciplinary soil science expert groups to
22 ensure that recommendations are informed
23 by the best available science; and

24 (vii) collaborate on the development of
25 standardized monitoring of the long-term

1 carbon and environmental impacts of soil
2 carbon sequestration research.

3 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
4 authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 to carry out
5 this section.

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