
Healthy Soil, Healthy Planet

To: Agriculture, Finance, and Policy Committee
Regarding: HF 1316 Soil Health Bill
From: Mary Clare McAleer (59B)

Thank you, Chair Representative Samantha Vang and Vice Chair Representative Kristi Pursell (58A), and Members of the Committee for the opportunity to provide this testimony today. I am hoping you vote to support the Soil Health Bill (HF 1316).

Climate change is the biggest threat my generation (elder Generation Z) faces. We need to make changes in all sectors, including the food sector. Sequestering carbon in the soil is a must. I am glad to see practices such as cover cropping and crop rotations included in the bill. I would recommend including provisions for farmers doing these practices without synthetic inputs (fertilizers, pesticides, etc.). To sequester carbon, you must have active soil biology to incorporate the organic matter into the soil. Non-organic inputs, such as glyphosate, completely disrupt these biological processes.

I was previously a Soil Conservationist for the USDA, implementing “Climate-Smart” practices such as those listed within this bill in Illinois. It is apparent when working with farmers, many of whom wanted to protect their soil fertility for future generations but needed financial assistance to take the initial leap of faith to figure out how these new practices would work in their operation.

Please support this bill,
Mary Clare McAleer

115 Second Ave S.
Minneapolis, MN 55401