

November 2, 2020

United States House of Representatives
House Agriculture Committee
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Peterson, Ranking Member Conaway, and Members of the United States House Committee on Agriculture:

We, the undersigned members of the Midwest Row Crop Collaborative, are focused on removing systemic barriers to the scaled adoption of sustainable farming practices across the Midwest landscape. That is why we are writing to urge your support and advancement of H.R. 7393, the Growing Climate Solutions Act of 2020, which will give necessary structure and credibility to emerging efforts to realize the significant carbon sequestration and reduction possibilities of the agriculture sector. This legislation will advance critical efforts to build carbon credit programs by making it easier for producers to navigate developing carbon credit markets and ensure that programs adhere to standards of agriculture and forestry expertise.

Founded in 2016, the Collaborative catalyzes systems changing solutions through diverse public and private sector partnerships and projects. Our membership and projects span the agricultural value chain, from the development of financial products and risk-reducing mechanisms for soil health-focused farmers to building demand for products produced with sustainable farming practices. H.R. 7393 would remove barriers associated with our goal to de-risk agricultural practice adoption by assuring the viability and trustworthiness of carbon credit programs, enabling downstream businesses to assume some of the financial risk associated with practice change in partnership with upstream farmers.

Our projects are designed to test innovative ideas for scaling sustainable agricultural practices across the agricultural landscapes of the Mississippi River Basin and the Ogallala Aquifer. We support policy ideas that remove barriers to these efforts. Before Congress adjourns, we urge you to support the advancement of the bill through the committee and pass H.R. 7393, the Growing Climate Solutions Act of 2020, in the House of Representatives.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope to work with you in the future on policies that help create a United States agricultural system that is part of a healthy environmental ecosystem and is economically viable for all in the value chain. If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Conner Nelms, Senior Policy Advisor, Agriculture, The Nature Conservancy (jconner@tnc.org or 305-304-1424).

Sincerely,

