

S 1023

Farmer-Informed WOTUS Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Mar 29, 2023

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. (Mar 29, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1023>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Braun, Mike [R-IN]

Party: Republican • **State:** IN • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Kennedy, John [R-LA]	R · LA		Mar 29, 2023
Sen. Ricketts, Pete [R-NE]	R · NE		Mar 29, 2023
Sen. Rounds, Mike [R-SD]	R · SD		Mar 29, 2023
Sen. Scott, Rick [R-FL]	R · FL		Mar 29, 2023
Sen. Tuberville, Tommy [R-AL]	R · AL		Mar 29, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 29, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Farmer-Informed WOTUS Act of 2023

This bill requires the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to establish an advisory committee that is representative of the U.S. farming and ranching sectors to make recommendations on the impact of *waters of the United States* (WOTUS) regulations on U.S. agriculture and environmental protection. (The Clean Water Act [CWA] protects *navigable waters*, which the statute defines as WOTUS. Because the CWA does not further define this term, the agencies that implement the CWA have defined WOTUS in regulations.)

Specifically, USDA must establish an advisory committee to study and develop recommendations to address matters such as

- the impact of the prior-converted farmland exemption on agricultural operations,
- the impact of WOTUS regulations on secure food supply chains and rural infrastructure, and
- how to develop safe harbor conditions for farmers who observe certain conservation practices.

Federal agencies must provide to the committee any information requested by the committee chair.

The advisory committee terminates 90 days after completing reporting requirements.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 29, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 29, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.