

HR 2720

Strengthening Organic Agricultural Research (SOAR) Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Apr 19, 2023

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation, Research, and Biotechnology.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation, Research, and Biotechnology. (May 15, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/2720>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Newhouse, Dan [R-WA-4]

Party: Republican • **State:** WA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (14 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Panetta, Jimmy [D-CA-19]	D · CA		Apr 19, 2023
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]	D · ME		Apr 19, 2023
Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]	D · OR		Sep 12, 2023
Rep. Carbajal, Salud O. [D-CA-24]	D · CA		Sep 12, 2023
Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]	D · NH		Sep 12, 2023
Rep. Lawler, Michael [R-NY-17]	R · NY		Sep 12, 2023
Rep. Neguse, Joe [D-CO-2]	D · CO		Oct 20, 2023
Rep. Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR-1]	D · OR		Nov 30, 2023
Rep. Pappas, Chris [D-NH-1]	D · NH		Feb 13, 2024
Rep. Salinas, Andrea [D-OR-6]	D · OR		Mar 12, 2024
Rep. Perez, Marie Gluesenkamp [D-WA-3]	D · WA		Mar 26, 2024
Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]	D · WI		Mar 26, 2024
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-18]	D · CA		May 21, 2024
Rep. Adams, Alma S. [D-NC-12]	D · NC		Oct 29, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred to	May 15, 2023
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred to	May 15, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 S 2756	Related bill	Sep 11, 2023: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.
118 S 2317	Related bill	Jul 13, 2023: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Summary (as of Apr 19, 2023)

Strengthening Organic Agricultural Research (SOAR) Act of 2023

This bill requires the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to expand organic research, including through grant opportunities and the collection of data.

Specifically, the bill reauthorizes and increases funding for the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative, a grant program which funds projects to enhance the ability of producers and processors who have already adopted organic standards to grow and market organic high quality agricultural products.

USDA may also provide competitive grants for research, education, and extension activities regarding the transition from nonorganic production systems into organic production. The grants may be offered for the purposes of

- overcoming social, economic, and management barriers to organic transition;
- documenting and understanding the effects of organic practices on ecosystem services (e.g., soil health and fertility); and
- developing improved technologies, methods, models, and metrics for transitioning to organic management.

USDA may prioritize grants for proposals that actively involve certain historically Black colleges and universities, tribal colleges or universities, and Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities.

The bill also provides additional funding for the Organic Production and Market Data Initiatives to collect data and report on the production and marketing of organic agricultural products.

Further, USDA's Economic Research Service must conduct an economic impact analysis of organic agriculture and submit a report to Congress. The report must include an analysis of farming and ranching operations and the economic impacts, both direct and indirect, of organic agriculture on rural and urban communities.

Actions Timeline

- **May 15, 2023:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition, Foreign Agriculture, and Horticulture.
- **May 15, 2023:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation, Research, and Biotechnology.
- **Apr 19, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 19, 2023:** Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.