

HR 4956

Farmer-Informed WOTUS Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Jul 27, 2023

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. (Jul 28, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/4956>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Yakym, Rudy [R-IN-2]

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

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Mann, Tracey [R-KS-1]	R · KS		Jul 27, 2023
Rep. Houchin, Erin [R-IN-9]	R · IN		Sep 14, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred To	Jul 27, 2023
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 28, 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

- **Jul 28, 2023:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.
- **Jul 27, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 27, 2023:** Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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.