

S 795

Farmers Freedom Act of 2025

Congress: 119 (2025–2027, Current)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Environmental Protection

Introduced: Feb 27, 2025

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. (Feb 27, 2025)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/795>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Rounds, Mike [R-SD]

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

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Barrasso, John [R-WY]	R · WY		Feb 27, 2025
Sen. Hoeven, John [R-ND]	R · ND		Feb 27, 2025
Sen. Marshall, Roger [R-KS]	R · KS		Feb 27, 2025
Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]	R · SD		Feb 27, 2025
Sen. Ernst, Joni [R-IA]	R · IA		Apr 11, 2025
Sen. Kennedy, John [R-LA]	R · LA		Apr 11, 2025

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Environment and Public Works Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 27, 2025

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Environmental Protection

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Farmers Freedom Act of 2025

This bill excludes certain prior converted cropland from permit requirements under the Clean Water Act, including Section 404 permits for discharges of dredged materials into waters of the United States (WOTUS). The exclusion applies to areas that were converted to cropland prior to December 23, 1985. However, the bill does not exclude an area that has reverted to wetlands and has not been used for agricultural purposes in five years.

In recent years, there has not been regulatory consistency about which cropland, such as cropland that has reverted to wetlands, is protected under the scope of the act as WOTUS. In 2020, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued the *Navigable Waters Protection Rule* that, among other provisions, defined *prior converted cropland* in order to specify which cropland is excluded from the scope of the act. However, the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona vacated the rule in *Pascua Yaqui Tribe v. EPA*. In 2023, the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers issued another rule that excluded prior converted cropland from the scope of the act, but they defined the exclusion more narrowly than the exclusion in the 2020 rule.

Similar to the 2020 rule, this bill broadens the exclusion. The bill determines the scope of the exclusion by defining the term *prior converted cropland* in statute.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 27, 2025:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 27, 2025:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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