

Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources

HB21-1242 Create Ag Drought & Climate Resilience Office

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Jay Wilson  For  Self	<p>My name is Jay Wilson, President Tri Lazy W ranch located in Nathrop, CO. In the years 2018 and 2019, my ranch, participated in the acre3 Energy Program. This GRANT provided assistance in the development of a hydro-mechanical system which operated two pivot irrigation systems. Irrigation water was delivered thru an underground gravity piping system to the pivots. This system used water pressure to operate the pivots. No electricity or fuel was used.</p> <p>This is an example of new cost savings techniques which can be developed thru the creation of an AGRICULTURAL DROUGHT AND CLIMATE OFFICE. Drought and climate issues are becoming more prominent. This office will provide technical assistance and programs in response to our ever changing weather condition in Colorado.</p> <p>This bill will aid farmers and ranchers in new conservation efforts developed thru this office.</p> <p>I support Senate bill 21-1242 and recommend its creation.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>May, 2021</p> <p>Testimony before the Colorado Senate, Agriculture, Livestock, &amp; Water committee.</p>



To: Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee members  
From: Michael Ruddock, Policy Manager, Healthy Air & Water Colorado  
Re: Letter of Support for HB21-1242  
Date: 5/5/2021

Thank you Madame Chair and members of the committee for hearing HB21-1242, Create Agricultural Drought and Climate Resilience Office. As an organization whose network consists of doctors, nurses, researchers, and medical professionals that see the results of climate change first-hand, we support this bill.

Climate change is making our air dirtier, our land more flammable, our rivers drier, our food networks less sustainable, our summers hotter, our soils unhealthier. Colorado has been a national leader in setting greenhouse gas reduction goals that will mitigate some of the effects of climate change, but an economy-wide, and government-wide, approach to those reductions is critical if we're going to achieve our targets.

Our agriculture economy and food system are at risk if we don't implement policies like what's outlined in HB21-1242. Some of the detrimental effects to agriculture and health include:

- Crop yield production decreases which diminish food security for Coloradans and cause malnutrition and food insecurity, especially for children and the elderly
- Reduction of key soil nutrients, including iron, zinc, and protein
- Billions of hours of potential labor productivity losses due to instances of severe heat
- Loss of wages and productivity for farmers and ranchers which can diminish mental health and lead to higher instances of suicide

Our Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Roadmap identified agriculture as an important sector in which we could make modest greenhouse gas reductions that could also improve soil health and reduce certain costs for farmers and ranchers. Existing programs like ACRE3 and the Soil Health Program have shown that it's possible to improve the health of our environment while saving money.

The proposed Agricultural Drought and Climate Resilience office established under this legislation would align resources that will help our environment and our farmers and ranchers. Successful climate mitigation efforts, and programs, rely on intimate on-the-ground knowledge from stakeholders that are engaged in the industry, which is why we support trusted community voices that will comprise the stakeholder group.

Coloradans cannot be healthy without a healthy agricultural sector. As climate change continues to threaten our way of life, our water, our air, and our soil, this bill is a positive step in mitigating some of the worst effects.

Please join us in supporting HB21-1242!



**HEALTHY AIR &  
WATER COLORADO**