

During the fly-ins, LSP members advocated for payment limits in federal programs to prevent further consolidation. They shared their opposition to investing in factory farms and made it clear carbon markets are the wrong direction for climate policy.

Since then, U.S. Senators Klobuchar and Smith have co-sponsored the Growing Climate Solutions Act, a bill that creates a framework for USDA involvement in certifying third parties to verify carbon credits. LSP opposes this approach because it is bad for the climate, bad for small to mid-scale farmers, and bad for communities where concentrated pollution continues to harm public health. Government should regulate polluters, not provide a loophole for ongoing climate destruction.

Climate Policy & Infrastructure

The next major legislation to come out of Congress will be an infrastructure bill, currently being referred to as the American Jobs Plan. Given the breakdown in the food system resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is crucial that this infrastructure bill addresses the needs of farm and food system supply chains. Components of the Agriculture Resilience Act referenced earlier address farm-to-table infrastructure, from building soil health to local processing and market development.

In addition, LSP supports the Strengthening Local Processing Act, introduced by Representative Pingree and U.S. Senator John Thune (South Dakota). This bill:

→ Helps small meat plants meet state and

federal guidelines.

→ Creates a new grant program for small plants, including new plants, to expand processing capacity.

→ Creates animal processing training program grants.

Rural investment must be prioritized in the American Jobs Plan. Corporate control of wealth has created an untenable situation for farmers

Take Action

Let your members of Congress know that you want them to champion the Agriculture Resilience Act, the complementary Climate Stewardship Act, and the Strengthening Local Processing Act, and that we need to see these rural investments now in the American Jobs Plan.

After receiving hundreds of e-mails from Land Stewardship Project members and supporters, Minnesota U.S. Senator Tina Smith recently signed on to a letter circulated by colleagues in support of putting \$200 billion of agriculture funding in the American Jobs Plan Act (AJPA), focused on conservation programs, local foods infrastructure, renewable energy, and more. This is a first step toward winning these key priorities.

Let's keep the pressure on: contact your members of Congress at www.govtrack.us/congress/members or send them an e-mail message by going to www.landstewardship-project.org/advocacy/#121.

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"Farmers are caretakers and entrepreneurs who mitigate a staggering array of risks, choosing carefully where to invest our limited resources. Without processors nearby to take livestock from our farm on to consumers, right-sized operations like ours can't provide healthy food for our communities."

— Dana Seifert, livestock
& crop farmer, Jordan, Minn.

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and other rural community members for too long. What is good for the climate and the environment is also good for local economies and community food security. It is time for our legislators to enact policy that benefits us, not corporate ag.

LSP members thanked Senator Smith and Representative Craig for co-sponsoring the Strengthening Local Processing Act. All other Agriculture Committee members from the Minnesota Congressional delegation were asked to join their colleagues in supporting this bill.

LSP members also advocated for the inclusion of both the Agriculture Resilience Act and the Strengthening Local Processing Act in any forthcoming infrastructure bill, such as the American Jobs Plan.

Contact me for updates on federal policy, details on action taken by our Agriculture Committee members, and more ways for you to get involved. □

LSP policy organizer Jessica Kochick can be reached at jkochick@landstewardshipproject.org.

LSP's Core Values: Stewardship, Justice, Democracy, Health & Community

Vision for the Future: 2019-2024 is the Land Stewardship Project's long range plan for working toward our goals of creating a sustainable, just, farm and food system. The plan opens by presenting LSP's core values:

→ **Stewardship** is the value of living in right relationship with the land and all that is connected to it: the soil, the water, the air, the plants, microorganisms, animals, and our climate.

→ **Justice** means there is economic, racial, and gender equity for farmers, workers, and all those who are engaged in the food and agriculture system.

→ **Democracy** means a society in which the people hold the power to govern, in which those people directly impacted by issues name solutions, set priorities, and win change.

→ **Health** is the value of nourishing the beauty, function, and vitality of an ecosystem made up of people, landscapes, plants, animals, soil, and water.

→ **Community** is the value of understanding our interdependence and caring for

the relationships that sustain each of us. □

The plan is available at www.landstewardshipproject.org/about/longrangeplan. Free paper copies are available by calling 612-722-6377.

Sign-up for the Land Stewardship Action Fund Hotlist

Interested in learning more about how the Land Stewardship Project and its members are harnessing collective political power to elect candidates who will be champions for our vision of a just food and farming system? Then check out LSP's sister political advocacy organization, the Land Stewardship Action Fund (LSAF).

Getting on the LSAF hotlist provides a chance to stay up-to-date on this work and to get involved. You can register at the LSAF website: www.landstewardshipaction.org/take-action/sign-up.



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