

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 6867

To create an Office of Conservation Innovation within the Natural Resources  
Conservation Service.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 19, 2023

Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself and Ms. SPANBERGER) introduced the  
following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To create an Office of Conservation Innovation within the  
Natural Resources Conservation Service.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Conservation Innova-  
5 tion Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. OFFICE OF CONSERVATION INNOVATION.**

7 Section 1242(h) of the Food Security Act of 1985  
8 (16 U.S.C. 3842(h)) is amended by adding at the end the  
9 following:

10 “(5) OFFICE OF CONSERVATION INNOVATION.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
2 establish within the Office of the Chief of the  
3 Natural Resources Conservation Service an Of-  
4 fice of Conservation Innovation (referred to in  
5 this paragraph as the ‘Office’) which shall be  
6 under the direct supervision of the Chief.

7           “(B) DUTIES.—The Office shall—

8                   “(i) provide support to the Chief in  
9 meeting the requirements of this sub-  
10 section; and

11                   “(ii) encourage innovation in con-  
12 servation practices through—

13                           “(I) revisions of existing con-  
14 servation practice standards;

15                           “(II) recommendations of interim  
16 conservation practice standards; and

17                           “(III) recommendations of new  
18 conservation practice standards.

19           “(C) STAFF.—The Chief shall detail to the  
20 Office not more than 6 employees of the De-  
21 partment of Agriculture who are technical spe-  
22 cialists that possess an understanding of con-  
23 ventional, organic, and other production tech-  
24 niques representing—

25                   “(i) agronomy and agroecology;

1           “(ii) grazing lands ecology (including  
2           rangeland, pastureland, and grazed forest  
3           land);

4           “(iii) animal husbandry (including  
5           animal nutrition and feed management);

6           “(iv) water conservation, drainage  
7           water management, and irrigation engi-  
8           neering technology;

9           “(v) agricultural engineering (includ-  
10          ing animal waste management, energy, and  
11          structural measures); and

12          “(vi) forest ecology.

13          “(6) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use fund-  
14          ing from the annual appropriations for conservation  
15          operations of the Natural Resources Conservation  
16          Service to carry out this subsection.”.

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