



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

AGRICULTURE TASK FORCE

2016 CAPITOL FORUM

AGRICULTURE TASK FORCE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

AGRICULTURE TASK FORCE AGENDA	3
AGRICULTURE TASK FORCE SPONSORS	5
AGRICULTURE TASK FORCE ATTENDEE ROSTER	6
AGRICULTURE TASK FORCE SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES	9

AGRICULTURE TASK FORCE AGENDA

Co-Chairs

Senator Rita Hart – Iowa

Representative Justin Cronin – South Dakota

All meetings will take place at the Marriott Wardman Park (MWP) Hotel unless otherwise noted.

Monday, December 5	
<p>7:00 p.m. <i>New Heights Restaurant 2317 Calvert St. NW Washington D.C. 202-234-4110</i></p>	<p>Welcome Dinner</p> <p>We will meet in the lobby next to Stone’s Throw of the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel to collect your badges and walk over to dinner together. Feel free to meet us at the restaurant if you are going to be late.</p>
Tuesday, December 6	
<p>7:30 – 8:15 a.m. <i>Room: Lincoln 2</i></p>	<p>Breakfast – The Next Farm Bill: A Primer</p> <p>The Farm Bill is one of the most important pieces of legislation that Congress passes. With the end of the 2023 farm bill only a year away, learn about and discuss the main issues that will drive the congressional debate next year, possible areas of contention that could delay passage, and how the incoming administration may impact its reach.</p> <p>Nathan Bowen, Director of Public Policy, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture</p>
<p>8:30 – 9:15 a.m. <i>Room: Lincoln 2</i></p>	<p>States Working with Agriculture to Improve Water Quality</p> <p>From voluntary practices to mandatory guidelines, states have explored ways to work with the agricultural industry and individual producers to improve water quality. We will hear from Peggy Hall on state efforts to meet water quality goals.</p> <p>Legislators and legislative staff are invited to share policy examples and other efforts to improve water quality in their states.</p> <p>Peggy Hall, Assistant Professor and Field Specialist, Agricultural and Resource Law, Ohio State University</p>
<p>9:25 – 9:45 a.m.</p>	<p>Transportation to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)</p> <p>The group bus will leave from the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel no later than 9:25 a.m.</p>

<p>10:00 – 11:00 a.m. <i>U.S. Department of Agriculture</i> 1400 Independence Ave., S.W. Washington, DC 20250</p>	<p>USDA Briefing</p> <p>Join your fellow task force members for a meeting with Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack to discuss the current state of the farm economy, what lies ahead, and how USDA’s actions over the past eight years have provided much needed support to both the agricultural industry and rural communities.</p> <p>Secretary Tom Vilsack, USDA</p>
<p>11:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. 701 Restaurant 701 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. Washington, DC 20004</p>	<p>Lunch – Planning for 2017 Policy Issues</p> <p>We will take a quick break from policy discussions for an offsite lunch.</p> <p>Please come prepared to highlight what policy priorities you will be focusing on in 2017. NCSL staff look forward to providing policy analysis and resources in the coming year as well as ongoing educational opportunities for state legislators and legislative staff.</p>
<p>1:30 – 3:00 p.m. <i>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</i> 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. Washington, DC 20004</p>	<p>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Briefing</p> <p>From the renewable fuel standard to the growing use of biotechnology, the EPA continues to play a major role in the agriculture world. Join us in meeting with top level agency officials to discuss these and other issues under the agency’s purview.</p> <p>Ron Carleton, Counselor to the Administrator on Agricultural Policy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</p>
<p>Wednesday, December 7</p>	
<p>11:30 a.m.</p>	<p><u>NCSL Capitol Forum Begins</u></p>

***The next Agriculture Task Force Meeting will be held in Spring 2017.
We hope you can join us!***

NCSL Staff Contacts

<p>Ben Husch Senior Committee Director Natural Resources & Infrastructure Committee Washington, DC ben.husch@ncsl.org Cell:609-947-0964</p>	<p>Mindy Bridges Policy Specialist Environment, Energy & Transportation Program Denver, CO mindy.bridges@ncsl.org Cell:720-412-9535</p>	<p>Kristen Hildreth Policy Associate Natural Resources & Infrastructure Committee Washington, DC kristen.hildreth@ncsl.org Cell:703-405-3700</p>
--	--	--

NCSL gratefully acknowledges the following companies & organizations for supporting the NCSL Agriculture Task Force!



AGRICULTURE TASK FORCE ATTENDEE ROSTER

Legislators and Legislative Staff

David Beaujon

Senior Analyst
Colorado General Assembly
200 E Colfax Avenue, Room 029
Denver, CO 80203
Phone: (303) 866-4781
Email: david.beaujon@state.co.us

Elaine Bowers

Senator
Kansas Legislature
300 SW Tenth Avenue, Room 223-E
Topeka, KS 66612-1504
Phone: (785) 296-7389
Email: Elaine.Bowers@senate.ks.gov

Justin Cronin

Representative
South Dakota Legislature
500 East Capitol Avenue,
Pierre, SD 57501-5070
Phone: (605) 773-3851
Email: justin.cronin@sdlegislature.gov

Tawanna Gaines

Delegate
Maryland General Assembly
Room 121
6 Bladen Street, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401
Phone: (410) 841-3058
Email: tawanna.gaines@house.state.md.us

Rick Hansen

Representative
Minnesota Legislature
State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard,
St. Paul, MN 55155-1298
Phone: (651) 296-6828
Email: rep.rick.hansen@house.mn

Rita Hart

Senator
Iowa Legislature, State Capitol
1007 East Grand Avenue,
Des Moines, IA 50319
Phone: (515) 281-3371
Email: rita.hart@legis.iowa.gov

Tom Hawk

Senator
Kansas Legislature
300 SW Tenth Avenue,
Topeka, KS 66612-1504
Phone: (785) 296-7360
Email: Tom.Hawk@senate.ks.gov

Gene Hogan

South Carolina General Assembly
PO Box 142
Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: (803) 212-6230
Email: GeneHogan@scsenate.gov

Tyson Larson

Senator
Nebraska Legislature
State Capitol
PO Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509
Phone: (402) 471-2801
Email: tlarson@leg.ne.gov

Paul Mark

Representative
Massachusetts General Court
State House
24 Beacon Street, Room 166
Boston, MA 02133-1099
Phone: (617) 722-2692
Email: paul.mark@mahouse.gov

Thomas Middleton

Senator
Maryland General Assembly
11 Bladen Street, Room 3 East
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991
Phone: (410) 841-3616
Email:
thomas.mclain.middleton@senate.state.md.us

Charisse Millett

Representative
Alaska Legislature
State Capitol
120 Fourth Street, Room 204
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-3879
Email:
Representative.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov

John O'Connor
Representative
New Hampshire General Court
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301-4951
Phone: (603) 271-3661
Email: John.O'Connor@leg.state.nh

Jim Patrick
Senator
Idaho Legislature
PO Box 83720,
Boise, ID 83720-0081
Phone: (208) 332-1318
Email: jpatrick@senate.idaho.gov

Kevin Ryan
Representative
21 Terrace Drive
Oakdale, CT 06370
Phone: (860) 240-8585
Email: Kevin.Ryan@cga.ct.gov

Other Attendees

Jeffrey Case
Senior Director, Government Affairs
CropLife America
1156 15th Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 872-3859
Email: jcase@croplifeamerica.org

Gene Harrington
Director of State Advocacy and State
Government Affairs for Food and Agriculture
Biotechnology Innovation Organization
1201 Maryland Ave SW
Washington, DC 20024
Email: gharrington@bio.org

Doug Jones
Executive Director
Growers for Biotechnology
PO Box 1454
Meridian, ID 83680
Phone: (208) 420-8100
Email: drjonestwf@msn.com

Craig Mischo
Deputy Director,
State Government Affairs
Bayer
Woodbury, MN
Phone: (651) 714-0316
Email: craig.mischo@bayer.com

Leslea Snyder
Director, State & Local Government Affairs NE
Monsanto Company
29 Laurel Dr.
Port Jefferson, NY 11777
Phone: (631) 372-2951
Email: Leslea.Snyder@Monsanto.com

Susanna Zimmerman
Archer Daniels Midland (ADM)
4666 Faries Parkway,
Decatur, IL 62526
Phone: (217) 451-4180
Email: susanna.zimmerman@adm.com

Faculty

Nathan Bowen
Director of Public Policy
National Association of
State Departments of Agriculture
1156 15th Street NW, Suite 1020
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 296-9680
Email: nathan@nasda.org

Ron Carleton
Counselor to the Administrator on Agricultural
Policy
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave N.W.
Washington, DC 20004

Peggy Hall
Assistant Professor and Field Specialist
College of Food, Agricultural, and
Environmental Sciences
Ohio State University
100 Agricultural Administration Building
2120 Fyffe Road
Columbus, OH 43210
Phone: 614-292-6891
Email: aglaw@osu.edu

Tom Vilsack

Secretary
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

NCSL Staff

Mindy Bridges

Policy Specialist
National Conference of State Legislatures
7700 East First Place,
Denver, CO 80230
Phone: (303) 856-1560
Email: mindy.bridges@ncsl.org

Kristen Hildreth

Policy Associate
National Conference of State Legislatures
444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 515
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: (202) 624-5400 EXT 3597
Email: kristen.hildreth@ncsl.org

Ben Husch

Senior Committee Director
National Conference of State Legislatures
444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 515
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: (202) 624-7779
Email: ben.husch@ncsl.org

AGRICULTURE TASK FORCE SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Breakfast – The Next Farm Bill: A Primer

7:30 – 8:15 a.m in Lincoln 2



Nathan Bowen

Director of Public Policy, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture

Nathan Bowen is Director of Public Policy at the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, which represents the commissioners, secretaries and directors of the state departments of agriculture from all fifty states and four U.S. territories. He directs the Association's policy activities, with a specific focus on environment and international trade policy.

Previously, Bowen served as Legislative Assistant to a member of the United States House of Representatives and managed a policy portfolio that included agriculture, environment, trade, and financial services policy. Bowen's experience in agriculture policy includes Conference Committee negotiations on the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. Bowen also worked extensively on public lands and energy legislation, as well as on matters relating to banking and financial markets.

Bowen graduated from Berry College in Rome, Georgia and is a native of southeastern Colorado.

States Working with Agriculture to Improve Water Quality

8:30 – 9:15 a.m in Lincoln 2



Peggy Hall

Assistant Professor and Field Specialist, Agricultural and Resource Law, Ohio State University

Peggy Kirk Hall is an Assistant Professor and Field Specialist in Agricultural and Resource Law at The Ohio State University. She directs OSU Extension's Agricultural & Resource Law Program and conducts research and outreach on legal issues affecting agriculture, rural land use and resource development. Hall also partners with the national Agricultural & Food Law Consortium, a multi-institutional agricultural law research initiative directed by the National Agricultural Law Center, and teaches the undergraduate Agribusiness Law course in the College of Food, Agricultural & Environmental Sciences.

Hall is a faculty Senator in OSU's University Senate, has served as President of the American Agricultural Law Association, Chair of the Ohio State Bar Association Agricultural Law Committee and on the Advisory Board for the National Agricultural Law Center. After earning her Bachelor of Science

degree she continued with a Master of Science degree in Resource Policy, both from The Ohio State University. Her Juris Doctorate degree is from the University of Wyoming College of Law, where she focused on agricultural and natural resource law, was President of the Natural Resources Law Forum and was the Case Notes Editor for the Land and Water Law Review.

Hall and her family own and operate a grain farm in Union County, Ohio.

USDA Briefing

10:00 – 11:00 a.m at the U.S. Department of Agriculture



Tom Vilsack
Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Tom Vilsack serves as the Nation's 30th Secretary of Agriculture.

As leader of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Vilsack is working hard to strengthen the American agricultural economy, build vibrant rural communities and create new markets for the tremendous innovation of rural America. In more than six years at the Department, Vilsack has worked to implement President Obama's agenda to put Americans back to work and create an economy built to last. USDA has supported America's farmers, ranchers and growers who are driving the rural economy forward, provided food assistance to millions of Americans, carried out record conservation efforts, made record investments in our rural communities and helped provide a safe, sufficient and nutritious food supply for the American people.

The Obama Administration and USDA have made historic investments in America's rural communities, helping create ladders of opportunity for rural people and building thriving rural economies for the long term. As chair of the first-ever White House Rural Council, Secretary Vilsack and USDA are taking steps to strengthen services for rural businesses and entrepreneurs by finding new ways to make the connection between the demand for investment in rural areas and the financial community.

USDA is promoting American agriculture by conducting cutting-edge research and expanding markets at home and abroad. The years 2009-2014 represent the strongest six years in history for agricultural trade, and new trade agreements President Obama signed with Colombia, South Korea and Panama will create even more export opportunities for American farmers and ranchers. Here at home, USDA has helped increase the number of farmers markets by 180 percent since 2006, and made more than 500 investments in local food infrastructure - including food hubs, local processing facilities and distribution networks - to help connect farmers and consumers and create jobs all along the supply chain for local food.

Vilsack knows that conserving natural resources is critical to the long-term strength of our economy. That is why USDA has enrolled a record number of private working lands in conservation programs and implemented new

strategies - such as landscape-scale efforts - to restore our forests and clean our water supply. This work is creating private sector jobs protecting and rehabilitating our forests and wetlands, and providing increased opportunities for outdoor recreation, which supports 6.1 million direct jobs across the country.

Under Vilsack's leadership, USDA has partnered with First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! initiative to improve the health of America's children. He helped pass and implement the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act, enabling USDA to help combat child hunger and obesity by making the most significant improvements to school meals in 30 years. He has led a comprehensive effort to improve the safety of the American food supply, implementing changes to food safety standards to prevent illnesses by reducing the prevalence of E. coli, salmonella and campylobacter in our meat and poultry.

He has made civil rights a top priority, reaching historic resolutions to all major past cases of discrimination brought against USDA by minority groups, and taking definitive action to move USDA into a new era as a model employer and premier service provider.

Prior to his appointment, Vilsack served two terms as the Governor of Iowa, in the Iowa State Senate and as the mayor of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Vilsack was born into an orphanage and adopted in 1951. After graduating Hamilton College and Albany Law School in New York, he moved to Mt. Pleasant, his wife Christie's hometown, where he practiced law. The Vilsacks have two adult sons and two daughters-in-law - Doug, married to Janet; and Jess, married to Kate. They also have four grandchildren.

EPA Briefing

1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Ron Carleton

Counselor to the Administrator on Agricultural Policy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Ron Carleton joined the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as the Counselor to the Administrator for Agricultural Policy in January 2015. His focus has been on outreach and communication with the agricultural community. He is also an ex officio member of the USDA Federal Advisory Committee, Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture. Prior to his appointment at EPA, Carleton served as Deputy Commissioner at the Colorado Department of Agriculture from June 2012 through December 2014. His work as Deputy Commissioner focused on climate issues, environmental regulations, food safety, industrial hemp regulations, agricultural education and outreach, and the Farm Bill. He chaired the Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council, and served on Governor Hickenlooper's Amendment 64

Implementation Task Force on Marijuana Regulation. Carleton also worked for over 30 years in the U.S. Congress.

Carleton holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Houston, a masters' degree from the American University, and a law degree from George Mason University of School of Law. Carleton was also an Adjunct Professor with the School of Business at Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia, teaching classes on Public Policy and Administrative Law. He is a member of Virginia State Bar.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

**We look forward to seeing you our
Spring 2017 Meeting! Date and
location to be announced!**

**For more information, please visit our
[website](#).**