



March 4th, 2021

**The Honorable JB Pritzker
Governor of the State of Illinois**

**Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706**

Governor Pritzker,

Thank you for your continued leadership in the fight against climate change in Illinois.

As supporters of Illinois' farmers and agricultural economy, we believe that activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester excess carbon in farm soils should be elevated as a key component of the state's response against climate change.

A [recent report by the American Farmland Trust](#) evaluated the current state of the science and identified no-till and the planting of cover crops as two practices of outsized importance when it comes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with U.S. croplands. When these practices are combined with others like crop rotation, mulching, strip-cropping, manure management, and composting, they have the potential to prevent millions of tons of new greenhouse gas emissions each year, while at the same time removing excess carbon from the atmosphere. In other words, when these practices are put in place, it positions Illinois farmers to be a key part of the climate solution.

In Illinois, where over 23 million acres of cropland are available for the implementation of these practices, the potential benefits are substantial. In addition, this same set of practices when used at scale are key to achieving the state's nutrient loss reduction goals—protecting clean water and restoring soil health.

However, Illinois' farms have yet to be identified as part of the state's climate strategy.

We believe that attention to these practices while matching them to the state's existing conservation infrastructure, plans like the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy and expanded partnerships can catalyze new investment and opportunity—which not only helps to safeguard the climate, but also creates a more resilient landscape for all Illinoisans.

Farmers across the state are already using their land for the development of renewable energy. They are implementing new, on farm technologies to become more efficient while also protecting the integrity of our food system. Expanding their ability to use soils and agricultural practices as another tool for fighting climate change is the next step to utilizing all of our state's assets to achieving our climate goals.

We ask you to recognize the importance of these practices and to begin efforts to further utilize state resources and networks to promote climate resilience efforts on Illinois farmland. We are ready to assist in identifying goals and opportunities around this important work.

Sincerely,

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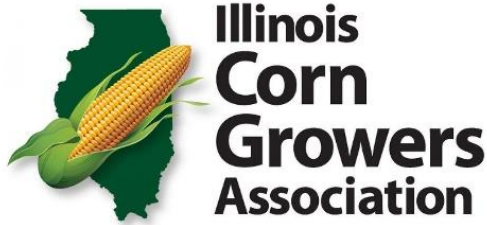
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