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Contact: Janet Cassidy  
Director of Communications, RIPE  
[jcassidy@RIPEroadmap.org](mailto:jcassidy@RIPEroadmap.org)

**PRODUCER-LED RURAL INVESTMENT TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT (RIPE) EXPANDS STEERING COMMITTEE**  
**National Black Growers Council is latest organization to advise coalition building unique, bipartisan climate policy**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28, 2022 — [Rural Investment to Protect our Environment \(RIPE\)](#), a producer-led nonprofit advancing a groundbreaking, bipartisan climate policy plan that works for producers and the public, is proud to announce that [National Black Growers Council \(NBGC\)](#) recently joined its steering committee.

“We are honored to have NBGC join our steering committee,” said RIPE Executive Director Aliza Drewes. “The council’s mission of advocating for Black farmers with a focus on sustainability aligns with RIPE’s focus of creating a strong climate policy that works for all farmers and ranchers. We believe producers have a pivotal role to play in tackling climate change, but they shouldn’t sacrifice their own livelihood in the process.”

Through payments of \$100 per acre or animal unit, the RIPE100 plan would reward producers for the total public value of their conservation practices, including no-till and cover crops. In addition to carbon sequestration, the voluntary federal program would pay for improved soil health, cleaner water, biodiversity and other environmental services. Payments would also help farmers and ranchers manage rising input costs — such as fertilizer — due to climate policy, while giving them a reasonable return.

RIPE’s steering committee advises on producer engagement, contributes to policy design and makes recommendations on other opportunities that support the organization’s mission. Other steering committee member organizations include Arkansas Rice Federation, Minnesota Farmers Union, National Black Farmers Association, North Dakota Farmers Union and North Dakota Grain Growers Association.

NBGC is a national coalition of multigenerational producers who advocate for the best interest of Black farmers across the United States and beyond. Its mission is to improve the efficiency, productivity and sustainability of Black row crop farmers.

**About RIPE**

*Rural Investment to Protect our Environment (RIPE) is a producer-led nonprofit advancing a national bipartisan, comprehensive climate policy that invests in voluntary agricultural stewardship practices that provide a reasonable return to farmers and ranchers, and the public. Through \$100 per acre payments, the RIPE100 plan would reward producers for the total public value of their conservation practices, including no-till, cover crops and more. In addition to climate change mitigation, the voluntary federal program would pay for improved soil health, cleaner water, biodiversity and other environmental services. For RIPE policy updates, position statements and more information, visit [RIPEroadmap.org](http://RIPEroadmap.org).*

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