

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Contact: Janet Cassidy
Director of Communications, RIPE
jcassidy@RIPEroadmap.org

PRODUCER-LED RURAL INVESTMENT TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT (RIPE) EXPANDS STEERING COMMITTEE
Minnesota State Cattlemen’s Association is first livestock organization to join diverse coalition building unique, bipartisan climate policy

WASHINGTON, May 2, 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 [Minnesota State Cattlemen’s Association \(MNSCA\)](#) recently joined its steering committee.

“Our goal of creating a climate policy that benefits all agricultural producers makes it crucial that a range of perspectives are represented on our steering committee,” said RIPE Executive Director Aliza Wasserman-Drewes. “The addition of MNSCA as the first livestock organization to join our mission expands the committee’s diversity and brings an important viewpoint to the conversation.”

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 rotational grazing, manure management, feed management, no-till and cover crops. In addition to greenhouse gas reduction, the voluntary federal program would pay for improved soil health, cleaner water, greater biodiversity and other environmental services. Payments would cover the full cost of practice adoption — not cost-share. The policy would also help farmers and ranchers manage input costs rising due to climate policy and provide a reasonable return.

MNSCA’s mission is to create and maintain an economic and political climate that provides individual members the opportunity to sustain and grow the cattle industry in Minnesota.

“We are pleased to bring the voices of Minnesota’s beef producers to the table to help design this comprehensive climate policy,” said Grant Breitreutz, president of the Minnesota State Cattlemen’s Association. “Joining the RIPE steering committee is one way we are looking to the future and supporting our members as we seek durable solutions to help them sustainably grow and prosper.”

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 organizations, in order of membership date, include National Black Farmers Association, Arkansas Rice Federation, North Dakota Grain Growers Association, Minnesota Farmers Union, North Dakota Farmers Union and National Black Growers Council.

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 or animal unit payments, the RIPE100 plan would reward producers for the total public value of their conservation practices, including no-till and cover crops. In addition to climate change mitigation, the voluntary federal program would

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Contact: Janet Cassidy
Director of Communications, RIPE
jcassidy@RIPEroadmap.org

pay for improved soil health, cleaner water, greater biodiversity and other environmental services. For RIPE policy updates, position statements and more information, visit RIPEroadmap.org.

#