



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Trey Cooke
Executive Director, RIPE
662-822-4560
tcooke@RIPEroadmap.org

RIPE TEAM GROWS

Melissa Willhouse joins RIPE as Communications Manager

WASHINGTON, DC March 18, 2024 - [Rural Investment to Protect our Environment \(RIPE\)](#)

President and Pennsylvania farmer Bill Beam is pleased to name Melissa Willhouse as RIPE's Communications Manager. "Melissa's passion, communication experience, and background in environmental policy makes her uniquely qualified to serve in this role and help advance RIPE's mission."

Willhouse is a Gaithersburg, Maryland resident, originally hailing from the Garden State. With a Bachelors of Communication Studies from Rider University and a Masters of Environmental Science and Policy from Johns Hopkins University, she has worked for the American Clean Power Association and Truth Initiative and is a freelance photographer and an Adjunct Faculty Member of Unity Environmental University. Willhouse is committed to protecting and preserving the planet and the economic well-being of agricultural producers.

"As the global population balloons and risks related to complex environmental issues become more and more prevalent," Willhouse states, "there is no better time to support agricultural producers and implement sustainable practices to ensure food security while simultaneously supporting the livelihood of said producers."

About Rural Investment to Protect Our Environment (RIPE)

RIPE is a bipartisan, producer-led organization committed to scaling voluntary agricultural stewardship. RIPE believes agricultural producers and communities benefit in a system that aligns economic incentives with voluntary practices that enhance our soil, water and climate. The farmers and ranchers who make up the RIPE Coalition have helped develop principles that are critical to significantly scaling the adoption of voluntary conservation practices that provide the greatest return on investment for producers and the public.

