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RIPE Announces 2024 Board Officers
RIPE's Board of Directors appoints four officers

WASHINGTON, D.C. March 28, 2024 - [Rural Investment to Protect our Environment \(RIPE\)](#)'s Board of Directors is a majority agricultural producers, representing family farms of various sizes and types including row crops, livestock and diversified production. To ensure bipartisanship, RIPE's board is governed by members affiliated with both political parties. RIPE has recently elected four officer positions on the Board of Directors, occupied by Bill Beam, Alana Petersen, Stratton Kirton and Tracy Travis. Each position will serve in this capacity for two years.

Minnesota Dairy Producer Eunice "Eunie" Biel is RIPE's most recent President and will remain on the Board of Directors in a different capacity. Biel has provided strong leadership and valuable service to the organization over the past few years.

Bill Beam will replace Eunie Biel as RIPE's President. Beam is the Owner and Operator of Beam Farms Inc. in Elverson, PA, and of a sawdust trucking business that serves customers and producers of sawdust within a 150 mile radius of the farm. He has been involved in agricultural policy and stewardship for years, most recently serving as Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs of the Farm Service Agency (FSA)/USDA from 2018-2021.



Alana Petersen will serve as Vice President. She previously served as RIPE's Interim Executive Director in early 2023. Petersen is Principal at Petersen Group/Canary Consulting. She is an experienced political leader whose career includes serving in multiple capacities with various Senators and Representatives. Residing in Pine City, MN, Petersen is active in her local Farmers Union, serving as County Treasurer.



Stratton Kirton will serve as Secretary. Kirton is the Vice President of Government Affairs at Liberty Tire Recycling, the largest tire recycling company in North America. In his previous roles, Kirton has advised clients on strategy and public policy with a focus on agriculture, energy,





environmental and trade. He also has worked for elected officials in the past, including U.S. Representative Mike McIntyre, a senior member of the House Agriculture Committee. Additionally, he helps manage his family's ranch and tree farms in Florida, and owns a small hay farm in Virginia with his wife.

Tracy Travis will serve as Treasurer. Travis is founder and CEO of ImpactTT Collective LLC and the co-founder and managing member of S&T Ag LLC, a production farming operation offering agronomy services to farming operations. Along with her family, Travis owns a farm in Wisconsin that grows corn, soy and wheat. Residing in Cambridge, WI, she is a member of the Board of Directors of the local school district, was recently elected to the Board of Directors of Compeer Financial and continues to serve on Compeer's Audit and Finance and Young, Beginning and Small Farmer Committees.



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.