

# Why This Bill Is Important

## **The Problem**

70 % of the world's freshwater is used to irrigate a handful of commodity crops produced for the industrial food chain. Thousands of miles of water sources and soils are contaminated by the industry's use of toxic chemicals. The industry's practices contribute to greenhouse gases, destruction of vital biodiversity and economic and food insecurity in communities across the globe.

While eroding the foundation for sustaining life, the industry claims that this approach is needed to feed the world.

**Climate change demands that we challenge this claim.**

## **The Opportunity**

Authentic food and water security and climate readiness are in effect two sides of the same coin. Local ecosystem health is the key to both. Regenerative food systems can be adapted to local conditions and provide a wealth of food using practices that depend on healthy ecosystems, plant and seed diversity and animals. With every acre of land restored to health and food produced sustainably, communities can capture carbon and meet their goals for climate readiness. With our public investments driving regenerative economies, communities can be engines for sustainable living.

## **Every Community an Engine for Sustainable Living**

Every community is impacted by the demands of climate, so each community needs to have a plan to respond and the economic tools to implement it. To maximize success, the economy must be designed to ensure that all members of any given community can participate and benefit from the new economy.

The challenges of climate and food and water security are significant, so organizing an economy designed to help communities live and work together as neighbors is essential. Facing a common challenge, urban and rural communities have a powerful incentive to collaborate to meet goals outlined by city, county and state comprehensive plans. Those plans can guide decisions for strategic investments to support local economic development defined by equity and regenerative systems.

# **Climate Adaptation Is Not a New Concept**

For thousands of years, communities operating in challenging climates across the globe worked in partnership with nature to design successful, locally-adapted food economies and generated a wealth of diverse sources of food and seed while protecting the vitality of ecosystems.

Today, we face a similar challenge and must have an economy designed to manage it successfully.

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