

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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# The New Congress

**THE PARTY MAJORITY HAS CHANGED**

**THE HOUSE COMMITTEE CHAIR/CO-CHAIR SWAPPED POSITIONS**

**NEW HOUSE AG COMMITTEE CHAIR IS COLIN PETERSON OF MINNESOTA. HE PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS HOUSE AG COMMITTEE MINORITY LEADER.**

# Some Recent Comments In The Press Regarding Peterson:

**A LONG TO-DO LIST INCLUDING OVERSIGHT OF TRADE AND FARM BILL IMPLEMENTATION - THE AGRICULTURE PANEL ISN'T LIKELY TO SPEND MUCH TIME ON CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES**



**Some Recent Comments In The Press Regarding  
Peterson:**

**PETERSON KEEPS DISTANCE FROM DEMOCRAT  
CLIMATE AGENDA**

**CLIMATE CHANGE WAS LEFT OFF HOUSE AG  
DEMOCRATS' LIST OF POLICY PRIORITIES**

**HOUSE SPEAKER PELOSI CALLED CLIMATE  
CHANGE AN "EXISTENTIAL THREAT"**

## Some Recent Comments In The Press Regarding Peterson:

**PETERSON: "WHAT IS OUR GOAL? PLANTING ALL THOSE TREES? I'M ACTUALLY CUTTING DOWN THE FOREST" HE TOLD REPORTERS LAST MONTH SHORTLY AFTER HE BEGAN LOGGING HIS OWN LAND**

# Major issues: Farm Bill Implementation

**SETTLE SNAP ISSUES**

**(SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM)**

**SUPREME COURT DECISION REGARDING WHETHER  
SNAP CAN PUBLISH RETAIL SALES DATA**

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## Major issues: Farm Bill Implementation

**DETER THE LOBBYISTS WHO WILL ATTEMPT TO MAKE CHANGES IN THE FARM BILL**

**OVERCOME THE CHALLENGE OF GETTING CITY/URBAN LEGISLATORS TO UNDERSTAND THE NEEDS OF AGRICULTURE**

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## Major issues: Farm Bill Implementation

**BE AWARE OF THE CHANGES AT THE STATE LEVEL:  
POLITICAL PARTY/BACKGROUND CHANGES, ETC.**





## Major issues: USDA

**DISCLOSURE STANDARDS FOR BIO TECH FOOD LABELS IMPLEMENT BY JANUARY, 2020**

**BIGGEST CHALLENGE: EDUCATE THE CONSUMER**

**USDA/FDA: RELEASE MAJOR FOOD & NUTRITION GUIDELINES**

## Other issues:

**LOOK FOR CHANGES AT THE STATE LEVEL REGARDING BACKGROUNDS OF STATE COMMISSIONERS OF AGRICULTURE**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT: PESTICIDE REGULATIONS WERE WATERED DOWN IN THE FINAL FARM BILL CONFERENCE REPORT.**

## Other issues:

**PRIA (PESTICIDE REGISTRATION AND IMPROVEMENT ACT) THE CONFERENCE REPORT FAILED TO INCLUDE RE-AUTHORIZATION OF PRIA**



EPA:

**WOTUS (WATERS OF THE U.S.)**

**ISSUES: DEFINITION OF A TRIBUTARY  
CURRENT PROPOSAL STATES THAT ORDINARILY DRY  
CHANNELS WHERE WATER FLOWS OCCASIONALLY  
OR INTERMITTENTLY DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO A  
TRIBUTARY.**

**DEFINITION OF "PERENNIAL" OR "INTERMITTENT"**

## Labor:

# DEPARTMENT OF LABOR: DRAMATIC RISE IN H-2A AG LABOR USE

F/Y 2008 - 86,014 H-2A POSITIONS

F/Y 2018 - 242,762 H-2A POSITIONS

## Labor:

**CALIFORNIA: EMPLOYEES AT FARMING OPERATIONS WITH MORE THAN 26 EMPLOYEES WILL RECEIVE OVERTIME AFTER A 9.5 HOUR WORKDAY IN 2022, OVERTIME AFTER A 8.0 HOUR WORKDAY**

## Observations:

**STATES WANT MORE BUY-IN IN DECISIONS REGARDING NUISANCE PESTS, PLANTS, ETC.**

**STATES WANT FEDERAL/STATE RELATIONSHIPS IMPROVED UPON REGARDING ENDANGERED SPECIES, ETC.**

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## Headlines in the Media:

**HUNDREDS OF "TRADE-AID" RECIPIENTS LIVE IN URBAN AREAS (1,142 OUT OF 87,700 PER THE ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP)**

**THE LOUISIANA INVINCIBLE FROG COURT CASE: ONE U.S. COURT TOLD ANOTHER U.S. COURT IT WAS SO WRONG IN ITS OPINION THAT THE OPINION IS BASICALLY WORTHLESS**



## Headlines in the Media:

**WOOL LOVERS BLEAT ABOUT ACTIVISTS SHEAR MADNESS**

**A PETA BILLBOARD NEAR LINCOLN, NE PICTURED A HOLSTEIN COW WITH THE CAPTION "I'M ME" AND "COWS ARE INDIVIDUALS"**

## Headlines in the Media:

**HARVARD AMASSES VINEYARDS AND WATER RIGHTS (THREE SQUARE MILES OF FLAT-BOTTOMED VALLEY)**

**BILL GATES LOVES FERTILIZER**

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