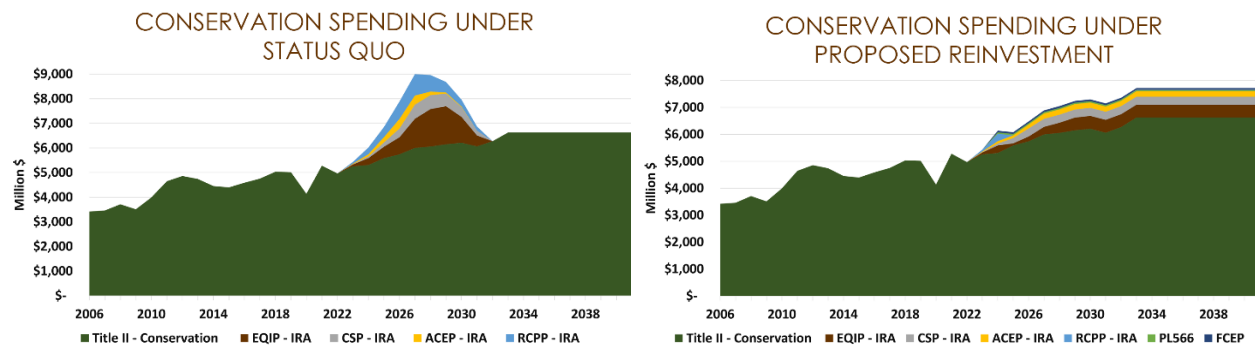


MYTH ~~vs~~ FACT

PUTTING RURAL AMERICA FIRST

Myth #1: Republicans want to slash Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) conservation spending.

Fact: Rather than letting IRA funding expire, Republicans propose to reinvest IRA dollars in a manner that maximizes their impact, creates an additional \$1 billion per year in conservation program baseline, and prioritizes local and regional voluntary, incentive-based conservation practices.

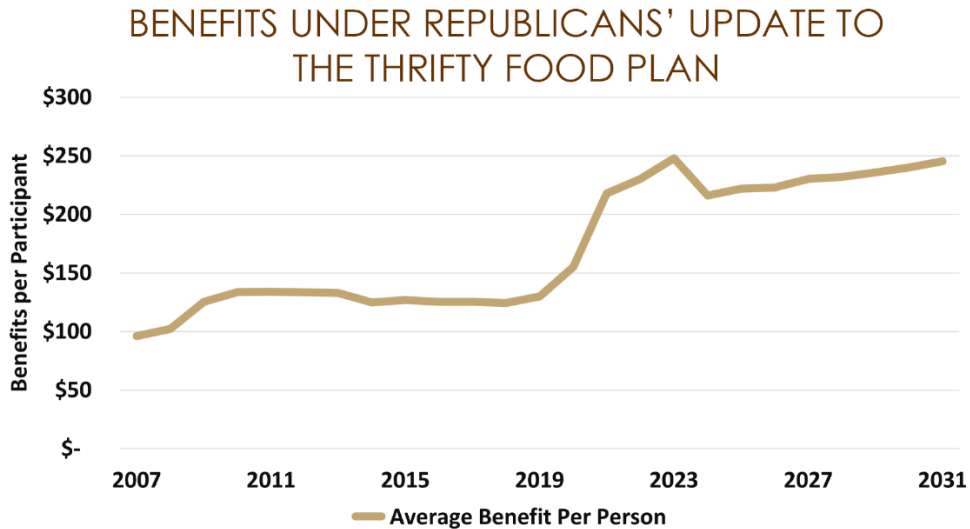


Background: The rules for reconciliation (the partisan process utilized by Democrats to pass the IRA in 2022) mean the funding provided by the IRA peaks in 2026 and tapers off through its expiration in 2031. By rescinding **and responsibly reinvesting** these dollars, the Republican proposal ensures the most popular and oversubscribed programs will see a permanent increase in spending power. Additional funds will be used to create and permanently fund new conservation programs including the Forest Conservation Easement Program, among other bipartisan priorities.

On numerous occasions during reconciliation, Senator Stabenow [stated](#) it was her goal to use these IRA dollars to create baseline in the Farm Bill. But recent comments suggest she would prefer to watch farmers fall off a fiscal cliff.

Myth #2: *Republicans are cutting SNAP.*

Fact: In 2021, the Biden Administration completed an unchecked update to the Thrifty Food Plan—which added \$256 billion to the farm bill baseline—now presents an opportunity for Congress to revisit its initial intent as seen in the 2018 Farm Bill, and garner savings on the official scorecard. To be clear, the Republican proposal does not cut, decrease, or impact SNAP benefits.



Background: Section 4002 of the 2018 Farm Bill directed USDA to update the Thrifty Food Plan—the market basket utilized to calculate SNAP benefits—every five years. Although CBO projected that provision to be cost neutral—based on more than four decades of precedent—the Biden Administration manipulated the methodology and avoided [commonsense procedures](#), adding one-quarter of one trillion dollars to the SNAP baseline. Putting modest guardrails on future updates of the TFP, while leaving the annual cost-of-living adjustment in place, not only creates savings on the CBO scorecard, but prevents any future Administration from utilizing the TFP process to decimate benefits.

Myth #3: *Chairwoman Stabenow has a pot of money to pay for her farm bill.*

Fact: Only Chairwoman Stabenow and Leader Schumer are party to this alleged agreement. No one else knows the details.

Background: In the press Stabenow has [made claims](#) that Leader Schumer gave her his blessing to utilize an offset from Senate Finance Committee's jurisdiction, worth up to \$5 billion. Utilizing these funds for the Senate's farm bill would require signoff from Chairman Wyden, Ranking Member Crapo, and Senate Republican Leadership. Further, House Republicans know that before trying to steal funding from other Committees, there is a mandate to fully explore funding options within their own jurisdiction.

Myth #4: *The CCC was meant to be the USDA Secretary's personal credit card.*

Fact: **Current and previous administrations on both sides of the aisle have abused the Commodity Credit Corporation's Section 5 authority to implement their agenda while circumventing the will of Congress.**

Background: You could be forgiven for believing that USDA has an unlimited credit card, given that over the last five years more than ten programs totaling \$60 billion in outlays originated at the Department outside the reach of Congress. Multiple administrations have warped the intent of authorities under [Section 5 of the CCC Charter Act](#) to stand up programs that meet the will of the Administration, while not always meeting the needs of the American people. Instituting guardrails on spending under this discretionary authority could net substantial savings, return authority to Congress, and create opportunities to improve the Farm Bill.

Myth #5: *Democrats have an alternative plan to fund the farm bill.*

Fact: **A “plan” without a pay-for is just a wish list.**

Background: House Republicans are the only ones who have put forth a plan on how to pay for meaningful improvements to farm bill programs, bipartisan priorities totaling more than \$75 billion. [Vague missives and lofty platitudes](#) completely ignore the calls from the countryside relative to [improving the safety net](#), and offer no indication of actual policy nor how to pay for it.