



2022 NASDA Annual Meeting Action Item Form



To be completed by NASDA Staff:

Date Submitted:

Committee:

Adopted by NASDA

Adopted with Amendment by NASDA

Not Adopted by NASDA

Additional Notes:

Action Items (AI) highlight a specific current issue Members feel NASDA should act on or other priority issues. AIs do not establish NASDA policy and must comply with existing policy or be accompanied by a corresponding Policy Amendment.

Subject of Action Item: Water Quality Outcomes Based Incentive or Program

Submitted By: Secretary Mike Naig

1 **Text of Action Item:**

2 NASDA encourages Congress to include in the next Farm Bill a Water Quality Outcomes based incentive or program
3 that either incentivizes state and local governments to invest in outcome-based water quality programs or allows
4 USDA to work with eligible partners to produce water quality outcomes, specifically nitrogen and phosphorus
5 reductions, in priority watersheds or regions, with the goal of incentivizing state and local governments to invest
6 in water quality outcomes and match their dollars with USDA funding.

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8 **Background & Rationale** (Note: Information in this section will not be included in the final text of the Action Item):

9 Nutrient pollution is the most widespread issue affecting rivers and streams across the United States. States, including Iowa
10 and others, have been leading the way on creating outcomes-based water quality programs to address the issue in line with
11 NASDA policy supporting “voluntary, outcome-based programs”. In outcomes-based conservation programs, farmers are
12 directly compensated for the water quality benefits they produce, just like governments purchase office supplies and just
13 like farmers sell grain. This approach reduces paperwork and allows a competitive market to drive down costs, saving
14 taxpayers money. But for many states, changing their existing conservation programs requires a significant investment.
15 A Water Quality Outcomes matching incentive or program in the 2023 Farm Bill could provide exactly the necessary nudge
16 to encourage states to implement water quality outcomes purchasing programs and would get more money in the pockets
17 of American farmers who go above and beyond to improve water quality.