

Thank you for your question yesterday regarding the potential for legislation such as *Loi sur la protection du territoire et des activités agricoles* (LPTAA) as a tool to protect soil and soil health in other areas of Canada. After conferring with my colleagues in Quebec, I am better prepared to respond on behalf of Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC). The LPTAA legislation protects the existence of agricultural land but does not provide any protection for the stewardship or health of that land. As I mentioned yesterday, dictating practices is a challenge due to differences in climate, soil texture, crops, etc. For this reason, I think it is more appropriate to prioritize principles (reducing tillage intensity and frequency, maintaining soil cover, etc) and outcomes (increased carbon sequestration for example) rather than practices.

DUC works within the LPTAA legislation to conduct our conservation work but, at times, it has posed challenges in executing conservation programming that restores habitat such as wetlands in areas that have been drained and converted to cropland. We are working to strengthen our relationship with influential groups such as UPA in Quebec to help find pragmatic compromises for projects like this but it, at times, has been a source of considerable conflict between conservation and agricultural interests.

Thank you again for your questions, the great dialogue during my time before the committee, and for the opportunity to present DUC's thoughts on the importance of Soil Health. I look forward to an opportunity to provide input on other areas of mutual interest in the future.

Regards,
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