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"The only way we can live on this planet without destroying it is if we learn to live in harmony with that vast, invisible, but incredibly important mass of micro-organisms that are living in the soil."

— Kristin Ohlson, author of *The Soil Will Save Us* Congressional Briefing,
January, 2017

Warm greetings from Center for Food Safety's Soil Solutions program!

Although the divisive political landscape is causing increasing angst, we believe that promoting soil-building practices provides an apolitical entry point to address issues of mounting concern including climate change, biodiversity loss and drought, while improving rural livelihoods. In fact, [a recent story](#) in *The New York Times* supports our assessment.

THE LATEST



Outside of Congressman Earl Blumenauer's office after a productive meeting discussing the 2018 Farm Bill.

On January 11th we were honored to address staff from both houses of Congress at a special briefing convened by the Organic Consumers Association at the Capitol Visitor Center. The illustrious group included Kristin Ohlson, author of *The Soil Will Save Us*; organic pioneer, Will Allen; Chief Scientist at the Rodale Institute, Dr. Kristine Nichols; author of *Cows Save the Planet* and *Water in Plain Sight*, Judith Schwartz; and Deputy Chief of Soil Science and Resource Assessment at the Natural Resources Conservation Service, David Smith (not pictured). CFS's Diana Donlon closed the program and screened the *Soil Solutions to Climate Problems* video.

SOIL CARBON TASK FORCE UNDER CONSIDERATION IN HAWAI'I



On January 25th, the state of Hawai'i introduced [House Bill 1578](#). Crafted by CFS staff attorney Sylvia Wu and introduced by State representative Chris Lee, the legislation would create a Carbon Farming Task Force with an aim to develop incentives for farmers and ranchers to improve the resilience of their land and protect their livelihoods as well as the island's food security. Our Hawai'i team is partnering with

Sierra Club of Hawai'i, and Surfrider Foundation O'ahu Chapter on this initiative. With the help of Soil Solutions' testimony, the measure passed through its first committee hearing on February 7th. We will be watching closely as the bill moves through the legislature. Stay up to date on future hearings and action alerts on www.protectourkeiki.org or on the Soil Solutions [policy page](#).

DIG DEEPER



We had the opportunity to meet Beijing-based filmmaker John Dennis Liu at COP22 in Marrakech. In this fascinating interview he discusses how our economy values material things at the expense of ecological function. Accordingly, “the landscape reflects our consciousness now.”

[Click here or on the image to watch his interview.](#)

2016 HIGHLIGHTS



Thank you to all of our supporters. Your generous support makes all the difference to the success of CFS' soil and climate program.

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