



## ***Supporting All Producers (SAP) Act***

**Introduced in the Senate by:** Senators Peter Welch (D-Vt.); Susan Collins (R-Maine); Angus King (I-Maine)

**Introduced in the House by:** Representatives Nick Langworthy (R-N.Y.-23); Becca Balint (VT-At-Large)

### **Background:**

The United States is the second largest producer of maple syrup in the world, with the largest concentration of maple syrup production in Vermont, Maine, and New York. In 2017, the U.S. produced more than [4.27](#) million gallons of maple syrup, worth approximately \$147 million. In recent years, maple syrup has become susceptible to increased [climate-related disturbances](#), such as warmer winters and earlier springs, which have shifted and shortened the maple tapping season. The industry is also fighting off invasive species, which threaten sugar maple trees.

Various initiatives are being introduced to address these, and other, emerging challenges to better support and expand America's maple syrup industry. One effort is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) [Acer Access and Development Program \(Acer\)](#), which provides grants to support states, tribal governments, and research institutions' work in promoting research and education initiatives related to maple syrup production and sustainability in the industry. The program also encourages landowners to begin or expand maple sugaring activities, or to make the land available for others, to do so. Currently, USDA does not consult with maple syrup producers to identify research and education priorities of the maple industry to help guide USDA grant awards.

### **Legislation:**

The *SAP Act* would require USDA to consult maple industry stakeholders when developing research and education priorities under the Acer program. By requiring USDA to consult with maple industry stakeholders, the Department can set clear education and research priorities to ensure that the limited Acer funding is dedicated to meeting the pressing needs of maple syrup producers and helps advance projects that offer the greatest opportunity to promote the domestic maple industry.

### **Supporting Organizations:**

The *SAP Act* is endorsed by the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association, New York Farm Bureau, and the New York State Maple Producers Association.