

Survey, database, and analysis of the enabling legislation of conservation districts across the country.

A joint initiative between the White River Natural Resources Conservation District (WR NRCD), VT Association of Conservation Districts (VACD), National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), and Vermont Law and Graduate School's Center for Agriculture & Food Systems, funded by the USDA National Agricultural Library and NACD.

## **Project Scope & Timeline**

**We are comparing** each of the 57 U.S. states and territories' Conservation District laws against the <u>original draft state Soil Conservation Act</u> language, distributed by the White House and USDA in 1937.

**We are building** a searchable database of the most updated versions of each law that will be available to CD Supervisors, State/Territory Associations, and State Conservation Associations across the country for edification and comparison purposes.

**Our objective is to provide** state associations and state agencies with updated information about conservation district enabling legislation across the country, support NACD regional staff working to develop farm bill recommendations around soil health and payment for ecosystem services programs, and highlight relevant emerging topics.

Project Phase Schedule	
Phase 1: Project scoping & planning, Creation of methodology, Populate Airtable <sup>1</sup> , Begin coding	Fall 2022
Phase 2: Continue populating database, coding; provide opportunity for input from Agencies and Associations on database and comparisons	Summer 2023
Phase 3: Use input received to review and analyze database; Draft topical memos as appropriate	Fall 2023
Phase 4: Test and make arrangements for using the live Database	Winter 2023

We are seeking input on this project to guide our work. Some guiding questions will include:

- What are the similarities and differences in District enabling legislation?
- What are existing provisions and barriers for state and District-level data ownership?
- What are examples of state/territory financial and organizational support?
- What are key opportunities for increasing equity and inclusion in CD legislation?

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Fig.1 and Fig. 2 below

## Database viewable here: https://airtable.com/appa6UCWefJpKXTMz/shrUBEBulG9s9PUHZ

Fig. 1: A screenshot of a portion of the Airtable in its current form.

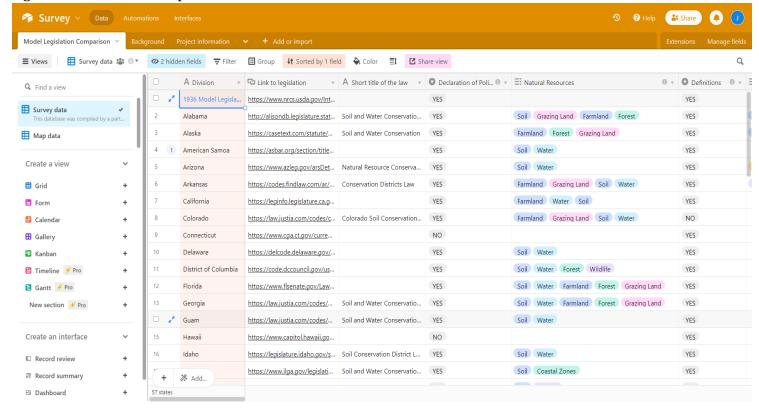


Fig. 2: A screenshot of the Airtable with an expanded section view.

