

# **POLICY RESOLUTIONS**

**of the IOWA INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATIVES**



As Last Amended by its  
Voting Delegates at their  
64<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on  
November 25, 2014



# *Iowa Institute for Cooperatives*

2515 University Blvd., Suite #104 • Ames, IA 50010 • (515) 292-2667 • FAX (515) 292-1672 • info@iowainstitute.coop

January 2015

To: All Iowa Institute Members

From: Kayla Lyon  
Director of Government Affairs

RE: Iowa Institute for Cooperatives Resolutions for 2014

Attached is a complete set of the Iowa Institute's policies on legislation and related matters as set by the members themselves during the Iowa Institute's annual meeting. This will serve as the basis for our legislative positions throughout the coming year. The Institute's Legislative Committee also stands ready to address additional issues that may arise during the legislative session. The attached resolutions are divided in to state and federal policies. All of the resolutions are important to the success of cooperatives but we want to bring your attention to some new additions. The following are new state resolutions:

- 1) Page 8—Issues in Common #21, Highway Conversions to Interstate,
- 2) Page 8—Issues in Common #22, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Use,
- 3) Page 13—Grain and Farm Supply #11, Big Data
- 4) Page 13—Grain and Farm Supply #12, Air Quality Funding ,
- 5) Page 13—Grain and Farm Supply #13, Modernization of Fertilizer Tax and Pesticide Fees
- 6) Page 21—Communications #4, Cable Program Marketing.

Some resolutions were dropped because they concerned items which had been accomplished during the year or were otherwise outdated. A few modifications were made to update or to strengthen language in existing resolutions. In any case, please review items in the index so you'll know the basis for the Iowa Institute's legislative activities. You'll want to retain this copy for future reference and bring it with you to the 2015 annual meeting.

Enclosure

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Federal Resolutions

| <b>ISSUES IN COMMON:</b>                     |  | <b>Page</b> |
|--|--|-------------|
| <b>International Trade</b>                   |  |             |
| 1  | Foreign Agricultural Trade (2012)                                    | 1           |
| <b>Transportation</b>                        |  |             |
| 2  | National Transportation Policy (2012)                                | 1           |
| <b>Agricultural Education &amp; Research</b> |  |             |
| 3  | Basic Research (2012)  | 1           |
| <b>Cooperative Law &amp; Procedure</b>       |  |             |
| 4  | Competition and Anti-Trust (2012)                                    | 2           |
| 5  | Cooperative Taxation (2012)  | 3           |
| <b>Rural Development</b>                     |  |             |
| 6  | Rural Cooperative Technical Centers (2012)                           | 3           |
| <b>Environmental Law &amp; Regulation</b>    |  |             |
| 7  | Clean Air Act (2012)   | 3           |
| <b>Miscellaneous Topics</b>                  |  |             |
| 8  | Climate Change/Greenhouse Gas Legislation and Regulation (2009)      | 3           |
| 9  | River Mitigation (2011)  | 4           |
| <b>GRAIN &amp; FARM SUPPLY:</b>              |  |             |
| <b>Grain Transportation</b>                  |  |             |
| GFS 1  | River Transportation Infrastructure (2012)                           | 5           |
| <b>Other Regulatory Issues</b>               |  |             |
| GFS 2  | Food Safety & Farm Inputs (2012)                                     | 5           |
| <b>ENERGY:</b>                               |  |             |
| P 1  | Energy for Agriculture (2012)  | 6           |
| P 2  | Pipeline Deregulations (2012)  | 6           |
| P 3  | Import Fee (2012)  | 6           |
| P 4  | Premium Diesel Fuel (2012)   | 6           |
| <b>ELECTRIC:</b>                             |  |             |
| E 1  | National Transmission Policy (2012)                                  | 7           |
| E 2  | National Energy Policy (2012)  | 7           |
| E 3  | Power Marketing Administrations (2012)                               | 8           |
| E 4  | Railroad Deregulation and Western Coal Railroad Freight Rates (2012) | 8           |
| E 5  | Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Financing (2010)                       | 9           |
| E 6  | Disaster Assistance (2012)   | 9           |
| E 7  | Effects on the Environment (2012)                                    | 10          |
| E 8  | Cybersecurity (2012)   | 10          |
| E 9  | Uniform FEMA Policy on Storm Recovery Funding (2013)                 | 11          |

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

|      |   |    |
|------|---|----|
| TC 1 | National Telecommunications Policy (2010) | 12 |
| TC 2 | Access and USF Reform (2010)              | 12 |
| TC 3 | Cable Program Marketing (2012)            | 13 |

**FARM CREDIT:**

|      |   |    |
|------|---|----|
| FC 1 | GSE Status (2012)                                 | 14 |
| FC 2 | Farm Credit System (2012)                         | 14 |
| FC 3 | Preserving the Farm Credit System (2012)          | 14 |
| FC 4 | Farm Credit Act – Cooperative Requirements (2012) | 15 |

**CREDIT UNIONS:**

|      |                                    |    |
|------|------------------------------------|----|
| CU 1 | Member Business Lending (2013)     | 16 |
| CU 2 | Tax Status of Credit Unions (2013) | 16 |

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## State Resolutions

| <b>ISSUES IN COMMON:</b>                        |   | <b>Page</b> |
|---|---|-------------|
| <b>Transportation</b>                           |   |             |
| 1   | Primary & Secondary Roads and Bridges (2014)                        | 1           |
| <b>Agricultural Education &amp; Research</b>    |   |             |
| 2   | Iowa State University Facilities/Faculty (2013)                     | 1           |
| <b>Cooperative Law &amp; Procedure</b>          |   |             |
| 3   | Application of Transfer Tax in Business Consolidations (2012)       | 2           |
| <b>Rural Development</b>                        |   |             |
| 4   | Rural Cooperative Development (2012)                                | 2           |
| 5   | Rural Health Care (2012)  | 2           |
| <b>Role and Procedure of the Iowa Institute</b> |   |             |
| 6   | Environmental Issues Related to Watersheds (2013)                   | 2           |
| <b>Environmental Law &amp; Regulation</b>       |   |             |
| 7   | Environmental Issues-Livestock & Poultry (2012)                     | 3           |
| 8   | Nuisance Suits Regarding Farming and Agribusiness Activities (2012) | 3           |
| 9   | Legislative and Regulatory Initiatives (2013)                       | 4           |
| <b>Livestock Production</b>                     |   |             |
| 10  | Meat and Poultry Production in Iowa (2012)                          | 4           |
| 11  | Animal Welfare (2011)   | 5           |
| <b>Miscellaneous Topics</b>                     |   |             |
| 12  | Right to Work Law (2012)  | 5           |
| 13  | Biotechnology and Genetically Enhanced Organisms (2014)             | 5           |
| 14  | Agricultural Contracting Legislation (2012)                         | 6           |
| 15  | Iowa Secretary of Agriculture (2012)                                | 6           |
| 16  | Expansion of Renewable Transportation Fuels Use (2013)              | 6           |
| 17  | Eminent Domain (2012)   | 7           |
| 18  | Limited Cooperative Statutes (2013)                                 | 7           |
| 19  | Hours of Service (2009)   | 7           |
| 20  | Commercial Property Tax (2013)                                      | 7           |
| 21  | Highway Conversions to Interstate (2014)                            | 8           |
| 22  | Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Use (2014)                                  | 8           |
| <b>GRAIN &amp; FARM SUPPLY:</b>                 |   |             |
| <b>Grain Dealer Regulation</b>                  |   |             |
| GFS 1   | Grain Dealer, Warehouse, and Indemnity Fund Law (2012)              | 9           |
| GFS 2   | Grain Dealer Law – Credit-Sale Contracts (2012)                     | 9           |
| GFS 3   | Risk Equalization for Grain Dealers (2012)                          | 10          |
| GFS 4   | Regulation of Grain Dealers by States (2012)                        | 10          |
| <b>Grain Transportation</b>                     |   |             |
| GFS 5   | Iowa Department of Transportation Railway Assistance Funding (2009) | 10          |

|  |   |    |
|--|---|----|
| <b>Other Regulatory Issues</b>                   |   |    |
| GFS 6  | Authority of Attorney General (2012)                        | 11 |
| GFS 7  | Air Quality Requirements (2012)                             | 11 |
| <b>Miscellaneous</b>                             |   |    |
| GFS 8  | Anhydrous Ammonia and Methamphetamines (2012)               | 11 |
| GFS 9  | Direct Notice of Liens (2010)                               | 12 |
| GFS 10   | Iowa Grain Indemnity Fund (2013)                            | 12 |
| GFS 11   | Big Data (2014)   | 13 |
| GFS 12   | Air Quality Bureau Funding (2014)                           | 13 |
| GFS 13   | Modernization of Fertilizer Tax and Pesticide Fees (2014)   | 13 |
| <b>ENERGY:</b>                                   |   |    |
| P 1  | Shrink Formula (2012)                                       | 14 |
| P 2  | Underground Storage Tanks and Tank Cleanup Fund (2012)      | 14 |
| P 3  | Motor Fuel Quality Assurance and Taxation (2012)            | 14 |
| P 4  | Mandated Delivery of Propane (2011)                         | 15 |
| <b>ELECTRIC:</b>                                 |   |    |
| E1   | National Transmission Policy (2012)                         | 16 |
| E 2  | Research and Development (2009)                             | 16 |
| E 3  | Energy Efficiency (2012)                                    | 16 |
| E 4  | Assigned Electric Utility Service Areas (2012)              | 17 |
| E 5  | Taxes (2012)  | 17 |
| E 6  | Disaster Assistance (2012)                                  | 18 |
| E 7  | Effects on the Environment (2009)                           | 18 |
| E 8  | Interconnection of Distributed Generation (2013)            | 18 |
| E 9  | Uniform FEMA Policy on Storm Recovery Funding (2013)        | 19 |
| <b>COMMUNICATIONS:</b>                           |   |    |
| TC 1   | Iowa Communications Network (ICN) (2014)                    | 20 |
| TC 2   | Broadband Deployment (2014)                                 | 20 |
| TC 3   | VOIP Regulation (2014)                                      | 20 |
| TC-4   | Cable Program Marketing (2014)                              | 21 |
| <b>AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION &amp; PROCESSING:</b> |   |    |
| APP 1  | Uniform Standards (2012)                                    | 22 |
| APP 2  | Special Milk – School Lunch – Food Stamp Program (2012)     | 22 |
| APP 3  | Milk Inspection Funding (2012)                              | 22 |
| APP 4  | Unpasteurized - Milk Sales (2013)                           | 22 |
| APP 5  | Labeling (2012)   | 23 |
| APP 6  | Addition of Solids in Dairy Products (2012)                 | 23 |
| APP 7  | Iowa Livestock Health Advisory Council (ILHAC) (2012)       | 23 |
| APP 8  | Sales Tax on Cleaning Chemicals for Food Processing (2012)  | 23 |
| APP 9  | Soil and Water Conservation Programs (2012)                 | 24 |
| APP 10   | Milk Case Deposits (2012)                                   | 24 |
| APP 11   | Beginning Farmers (2012)                                    | 24 |
| <b>FARM CREDIT:</b>                              |   |    |
| FC 1   | Fair and Equitable Treatment of Agricultural Lenders (2012) | 25 |
| FC 2   | Level of Inquiry – Toxic Wastes (2012)                      | 25 |
| <b>CREDIT UNIONS:</b>                            |   |    |
| CU1  | Tax Status of Credit Unions (2014)                          | 26 |
| CU2  | Credit Union Services (2014)                                | 26 |

# ISSUES IN COMMON

## **1. Foreign Agricultural Trade (2012)**

WHEREAS, our nation must continue its longstanding efforts to reduce barriers to world trade expansion; and

WHEREAS, efforts to increase opportunities for further foreign market expansion for U.S. farm and other products must be given more attention in years ahead; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives favors:

- 1) Removal of any trade restrictions which inhibit the free flow of agricultural commodities into export markets.
- 2) Domestic farm policies which permit the U.S. farmer to remain competitive in world markets, while developing greater foreign market power.
- 3) Continual open negotiation with foreign trading nations to negotiate mutually beneficial trade terms for agricultural and other products.
- 4) Concentration of efforts to remove various non-tariff barriers, such as quotas, licenses, seasonal embargoes, bonus dollars, and other trade restrictions which regulate and inhibit international trade.
- 5) A WTO agreement that is beneficial for American agriculture.

## **2. National Transportation Policy (2012)**

WHEREAS, continuous and uninterrupted movement of agricultural products from producer to market is essential for the nation's welfare; and

WHEREAS, it is fundamental that transportation be readily available, adequate to effectively move agricultural products to market, and economical in its cost to the nation's food marketing system; and

WHEREAS, damaging tie-ups in our transportation system cannot be tolerated; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives favors:

- 1) A strong emphasis on government regulation in determining transportation rates, charges and services where consolidation has diminished or eliminated competition.
- 2) Support of legislation designed to prevent disruption of the nation's transportation system by providing for binding settlement of transportation labor disputes.
- 3) Support of legislation designed to promote the most efficient and economical transportation of natural resources, including but not limited to the movement of coal, oil, natural gas and water utilized by Iowa industries.

## **3. Basic Research (2012)**

WHEREAS, much of American agricultural success is owed to the basic and applied research program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Land Grant Universities; and

WHEREAS, it is not adequately recognized that our reservoir of basic research has been depleted and there are undoubtedly opportunities for improving the marketing and production of our ag products; and

WHEREAS, both production and marketing resource programs deserve stronger funding to help assure programs in the nation's food and fiber sectors; and

# ISSUES IN COMMON

WHEREAS, more research and development of new uses for currently produced products may contribute to the market for ag products; and

WHEREAS, agricultural extension is already positioned to help Iowa agriculture solve its current problems and find appropriate ways to adjust to an agricultural economy that is undergoing dramatic structural change; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports the role of Economic Extension Service in satisfying the following points:

- 1) Encouragement of marketing efforts designed specifically to assist farmers in converting their productivity into purchasing power.
- 2) Development and implementation of research programs designed to identify and develop new markets for agricultural products.
- 3) Continuance of current programs designed to increase production efficiency and to overcome problems of disease and pests.
- 4) Maintenance of practical expertise in evaluating current problems in Iowa agriculture and finding ways to adjust to the ag economy's dramatic structural changes.

#### **4. Competition and Anti-Trust (2012)**

WHEREAS, one of agriculture's basic weaknesses is the farmer's lack of economic power either collectively or individually in the market; and

WHEREAS, farmer cooperatives act as marketing agents for their farmer members and are instrumental in bringing more competition to grocer's shelves; and

WHEREAS, uninformed critics have charged that cooperatives represent a serious threat of a monopolistic influence in some markets; and

WHEREAS, cooperatives have little real market power at the retail point; and

WHEREAS, attacks on the Capper-Volstead Act continue in both Congress and the business community; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives opposes any legislative or regulatory effort that would give additional jurisdiction to the Federal Trade Commission, to the Department of Justice, or to any other governmental agency, other than the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives favors:

- 1) Protecting the beneficial Capper-Volstead Act, enacted in 1922 to authorize farmers to bargain and market their products collectively for greater market strength, and
- 2) Providing the right of farmers to build economic strength through merger, acquisition and joint action.



# ISSUES IN COMMON

## **5. Cooperative Taxation (2012)**

WHEREAS, there are some interests in the United States and the State of Iowa who would double tax cooperatives and their members; and

WHEREAS, these interests would impose taxes both upon the cooperatives as a business entity and upon the member as an individual; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives strongly endorses the present single tax principle for members and their cooperatives as established by the Revenue Act of 1962 and corresponding provisions of the Iowa tax code; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives opposes the efforts to erode the single tax principle, such as the capitalization of inventory and the imposition of the alternative minimum tax.

## **6. Rural Cooperative Technical Centers (2012)**

WHEREAS, Congress has created and funded new rural development programs; and

WHEREAS, the cooperative form of business offers a unique structure particularly well suited to such efforts; and

WHEREAS, adequate technical advice and cooperative research is critical to the success of new cooperative ventures; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute work with Cooperative Development Services, Iowa State University and other appropriate groups to maintain funding for these efforts and to position Iowa as a major player in cooperative development activities.

## **7. Clean Air Act (2012)**

WHEREAS, the federal Clean Air Act is an environmental program developed to protect the quality of our air; and

WHEREAS, the federal Environmental Protection Agency changed the standards for particulate matter by reducing the allowable size from 10 microns down to 2.5 microns; and

WHEREAS, such a level is unreasonable in a rural or in an agricultural setting where natural, non-toxic particulate matter, which comes from such things as the handling of grain or driving on gravel roads, would violate this lower standard; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives work with the government environmental agencies and legislative bodies to educate their understanding of the consequences of such a standard.

## **8. Climate Change/Greenhouse Gas Legislation and Regulation (2009)**

WHEREAS, legislation and regulation on global climate change and greenhouse gas emissions are being proposed at both the federal and state levels of government; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports efforts to address areas of environmental concerns utilizing approaches that are economically practical and based on sound science; now therefore

# ISSUES IN COMMON

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports the following:

- 1) Assure that any such policies are implemented on a national level as opposed to state by state or on a regional basis, and
- 2) That any such policies incorporate the fundamentals of existing climate policies eliminating unnecessary regulatory burdens from overlapping policy programs, and
- 3) Assure that such policy is based on accurate, objective peer reviewed science, and
- 4) That production agriculture, such as livestock production is not designated as a “regulated industry” under such policies, and
- 5) Assure that such policies are based on sound cost benefit analysis and do not impose unacceptable economic burdens on consumers, producers or their cooperatives.
- 6) Grandfathering existing land stewardship practices for eligibility to carbon credits

## **9. River Mitigation (2011)**

WHEREAS the original intent of US Army Corp of Engineers’ flood mitigation planning was flood management; and

WHEREAS both the Missouri & Mississippi rivers systems have a significant economic impact especially at the local and state level; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports that the top priority for river mitigation be flood protection and transportation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Army Corps of Engineers budget and activities should be reprioritized to ensure flood control and transportation are priority

# GRAIN & FARM SUPPLY

## **GFS 1 River Transportation Infrastructure (2012)**

WHEREAS, the rivers bordering Iowa provide opportunities for moving ag products and agricultural inputs; and

WHEREAS, alternative transportation systems will impact all transportation costs; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute support federal efforts to improve the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers for the transport of agricultural products and inputs to and from the state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute supports exploring alternative methods of funding if federal monies are unavailable for the necessary improvement of the lock and dam system.

## **GFS 2 Food Safety & Farm Inputs (2012)**

WHEREAS, the nation's food consumers over a period of years have come to be highly sensitive and concerned about health risks in their food supply; and

WHEREAS, the general population, both farm and non-farm, is concerned about the quality of their drinking water; and

WHEREAS, farmers are under intense economic pressure to keep down their costs of production; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute encourage cooperatives, both local and regional, to provide maximum assistance to farmers in determining the most economic levels of inputs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute favors reasonable efforts to ensure food safety through regulation of both domestic and imported food, but that such efforts be primarily limited to the federal level of government

# ENERGY

## **P 1 Energy for Agriculture (2012)**

WHEREAS, American agriculture utilizes fossil energy to enhance the conversion of solar energy into food and fiber for much of the world's population; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives support the following basic philosophies:

- 1) Alternative sources of fuel must be developed, including biomass from agricultural commodities and by-products.
- 2) Policies which promote the responsible growth of the biofuels industry is supported, and
- 3) Environmental policies are supported, so long as they permit the best possible utilization of energy resources.

## **P2 Pipeline Deregulations (2012)**

WHEREAS, the majority of petroleum products are delivered by pipelines in Iowa; and

WHEREAS, refineries are continuing to move farther from the end user in Iowa, making the end user more dependent on the pipeline for product and leaving the pipeline without competition from other kinds of transportation; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives oppose decontrol of pipeline tariffs

## **P 3 Import Fee (2012)**

WHEREAS, it will create economic disparity among refineries and marketers and ultimately end users; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives oppose an import fee on crude oil and finished products.

## **P 4 Premium Diesel Fuel (2012)**

WHEREAS, diesel fuel is a necessary commodity used for production and harvest of agricultural commodities; and

WHEREAS, premium diesel fuel is a generic term for different specifications for different dealers and cooperatives; and

WHEREAS, this creates unfair advantages for sellers selling lower quality fuels; and

WHEREAS, consumers many times do not know what fuel they are purchasing; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives seek minimum definition and labeling requirements for premium grade diesel fuel and enforcement of such labeling requirements.

# ELECTRIC

## **E 1 National Transmission Policy (2012)**

WHEREAS, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives believes that the development of a national grid system and the creation of regional power marketing and transmission authorities may result in the utilization of existing generation and transmission facilities by consumers who, because of their location, are not required to pay any of the costs associated therewith; and

WHEREAS, efficient transmission facilities are required to fully use sources of electric energy to meet the needs of the people of Iowa as permanent pathways for energy comparable to highways and railroads; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute oppose enactment of legislation that would impose further restrictions on the acquisition and use of rights-of-way required for electric transmission lines.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports the continued development of a grid system through power and transmission planning by regional authorities and the National Electric Reliability Council which promotes the exchange of capacity and energy available because of seasonal and load diversity, the addition of system facilities necessary to provide for such exchanges, and that all movements of power and energy shall be coordinated through regional reliability groups which follow reliability standards of NERC, provided the costs incurred by individual power suppliers participating in such a system be borne in an equitable manner and will not jeopardize the service to existing members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports the development of a robust transmission system that can accommodate distributed generation but only if built in a cost effective manner and only if a direct benefit to Iowa member consumers can be determined.

## **E 2 National Energy Policy (2012)**

WHEREAS, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives recognizes the need for the future development of feasible and reliable sources of energy to serve the needs of this country; and

WHEREAS, The Institute recognizes that coal must remain a part of our energy portfolio until it can be adequately replaced by another form of energy that is similarly reliable and affordable;

WHEREAS, the Institute supports the development of new energy sources such as nuclear including small modular reactors, solar energy, wind, biomass, natural gas, additional hydro development, coal gasification projects, and other developments which may make new sources of energy available; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to provide planning to meet the future energy needs of this country; and

WHEREAS, meeting the energy needs of this country is essential to future development and maintaining and increasing the standard of living for its citizens; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports the development and implementation of a national energy policy to insure adequate and economical energy for the future development of this country and its citizens.

# ELECTRIC

## **E 3 Power Marketing Administrations (2012)**

WHEREAS, energy generated at federal hydroelectric facilities is purchased by more than 1,000 consumer-owned utility systems that serve homes, farms, businesses, and industry in 34 states, including Iowa; and

WHEREAS, the federal investment in hydro power is being systematically repaid to the U.S. Treasury, with interest, by federal power customers; and power revenues also contribute a significant amount of revenue to assist the repaying of irrigation costs, salinity control, and certain fish and wildlife mitigation programs; and

WHEREAS, some 275,000 manufacturing, wholesale, retail, and service companies nationwide, which employ more than 3,000,000 people and contribute nearly \$240 billion to the national economy, are served by consumer-owned utilities that rely on federal power purchases for all or part of their bulk power supply; and

WHEREAS, the sale, transfer, or other disposal of the power marketing administrations or the federal power plants and related facilities would:

- Threaten consumer-owned utilities and their customers with uncertainty of supply and significantly higher power rates;
  - Undermine the ability of consumer-owned utilities to provide reliable electric service at competitive rates and thereby increase monopoly in the electric utility industry;
  - Reneg on existing repayment agreements between the United States and federal power users;
- and

-Eliminate reliable, long term sources of revenues for the U.S. Treasury; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives opposes the sale, transfer, exchange, lease or other disposition of the federal power marketing administrations and power plants and related facilities for the production and transmission of electricity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports maintaining federal ownership of the Power Marketing Administrations and cost-based rates for PMA power and urges Congress to maintain its opposition to any proposals to raise electricity costs in areas of the country served by PMAs, either by redefining the purpose of the PMAs or requiring the PMAs to sell power at market rates.

## **E 4 Railroad Deregulation and Western Coal Freight Rates (2012)**

WHEREAS, this nation's energy policy – as well as common sense – has encouraged the use of coal available in relative abundance in the United States in order to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, thus reducing inflation and our balance of payments deficient; and

WHEREAS, western coal production must continue if the nation is to meet its real energy needs, and for this to occur a large portion of this coal must be hauled by the nation's railroads so it can reach its point of use reliably and expeditiously; and

WHEREAS, the 1980 Staggers Rail (Deregulation) Act, as it has been implemented through various actions and proceedings of the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) provides virtually no protection for captive shippers (of ore, grain, and other bulk products, particularly coal, which are limited to a single railroad for transportation to market or point of use) and surely will result in

# ELECTRIC

excessive freight rates with resultant increases, in the cost of electric power for utility customers; and

WHEREAS, these excessive freight rates will serve to thwart a national energy policy which relies heavily on relatively low cost domestic coal reserves, and will unnecessarily delay the needed shift from oil to coal use in the nation's electric generating systems; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports efforts to take whatever steps offer the best chance of success in neutralizing the power of railroads and set aside excessive coal freight rates, including seeking legislative relief, participating in Surface Transportation Board (STB) proceedings affecting railroad coal shipping rates and conditions where indicated, including appeals to the courts, and urges them and other interested groups to pursue these goals without let up; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives endorses legislative initiative to restore competition in railroad coal transportation through enactment of legislation that will provide protection for captive shippers of coal against excessive freight rates.

## **E 5 Rural Utilities Services (RUS) Financing (2010)**

WHEREAS, rural electric cooperatives can meet their responsibilities only if they are able to obtain reasonable capital, and their member-consumers, in turn, must have fully adequate electric service in order to produce the food and other essentials for a growing nation and its vital foreign trade, and such production combats inflation and contributes toward national self-sufficiency in the supply of energy which is essential to full employment, national security, and many other aspects of the general welfare; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute urges the Congress to appropriate the necessary funds and enact the necessary legislation to continue the effective operation of the Rural Electrification program through the Rural Utilities Services (RUS); to continue the insured loan program with wise operation and the revolving fund principle; and the further continuation of the guaranteed loan program, the Federal Financing Bank, the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program and renewed financing for base load generation and grid improvements, all to achieve the equitable source of necessary capital funds to meet the financial requirements of rural electric cooperatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives urges the Congress to continue to fund construction of clean coal fired generation, environmental protection equipment, transmission, and distribution.

## **E 6 Disaster Assistance (2012)**

WHEREAS, rural electric cooperatives incur severe damages from ice storms and other natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, these storms impose a severe financial hardship upon the cooperatives and the consumer-members; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports the prioritizing of RUS insured loan applications in order to assure the availability of FEMA funds that provide assistance to rural electric cooperatives which have incurred considerable damage resulting from natural disasters.

# ELECTRIC

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports the appropriation of adequate federal and state dollars to fund the public assistance and mitigation programs to respond to Iowa's disasters.

## **E 7 Effects on the Environment (2009)**

WHEREAS, our economy and our environment must co-exist; and

WHEREAS, our local and national economy is part of a world economy; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives asks that the state and federal governments support the equal treatment of all countries and regions in our country, when dealing with all types of emissions that may have an effect on the environment.

## **E 8 Cybersecurity (2012)**

WHEREAS, cybersecurity is an important element of bulk power system reliability that electric cooperatives take very seriously. Every day, the electric power industry continuously monitors the bulk power system and mitigates the effects of transmission grid incidents – large and small. Consumers and government are rarely aware of these incidents because of the sector's advance planning, coordination and response activities. The North American power system is an incredibly complex machine, especially when cyber assets are layered into it and used to operate portions of it. In light of this increasing complexity, power system owners and operators have the most expertise about how to respond to and mitigate vulnerabilities and threats to the power system.

WHEREAS, to maintain and improve upon the high level of reliability consumers expect, electric cooperatives work closely with government, including the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Energy, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to gain and share needed information about potential threats and vulnerabilities related to the bulk power system.

WHEREAS, in nearly all situations, electric cooperatives can protect the parts of the bulk power system we own, use or operate without government intelligence information. However, in the limited circumstances when government intelligence information is needed on a particular threat or vulnerability, that information must be timely and actionable. After receiving this information, co-ops can then direct our expert operators and cyber security staff to make the needed adjustments to systems and networks to ensure the reliability and security of the bulk power system.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives opposes legislation that would allow FERC or DHS, rather than the industry experts participating in the NERC process, to write mandatory and enforceable standards for a wide variety of threats and vulnerabilities.



# ELECTRIC

## **E9 Uniform FEMA Policy on Storm Recovery Funding (2013)**

WHEREAS, federal assistance is made available to electric cooperatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to rebuild their facilities which are damaged as a result of presidentially declared emergencies. FEMA's criteria for determining the extent to which the permanent restoration of disaster-damaged rural electric cooperative facilities is eligible for funding should be clearly established by policies to be implemented nationally.

WHEREAS, in spite of the clearly stated language in the applicable FEMA policy document, with no previous notice, FEMA Region 7 is imposing requirements for proving the pre and post-storm condition of the applicants' overhead conductor in a way never before known or anticipated to exist.

WHEREAS, circumstances have arisen whereby FEMA has initially determined that rebuilding projects are eligible for funding and have obligated funds for such projects only to subsequently conclude that its funding approval should not have been made. The unilateral adoption, without notice, of policies effecting project eligibility could result in FEMA funding de-obligation determinations which must not be allowed because these determinations are contrary to the intent of the Stafford Act, FEMA's governing regulations and policies and because they place a significant financial burden on cooperatives that act in reasonable reliance on the decisions of FEMA and, ultimately, their members.

WHEREAS, FEMA's use of personnel with limited training or who are unfamiliar with the facilities owned and operated by rural electric cooperatives and who assist in the preparation and processing of damage survey reports and project development has led to inconsistent determinations regarding the extent to which cooperative systems are to be restored within and among FEMA Regions.

WHEREAS, clear and up-to-date criteria in the form of national policies which are uniformly implemented are needed because eligibility decisions effectively determine the level of federal spending for public assistance.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives urges FEMA to develop and uniformly implement national policies for determining eligibility for public assistance and the extent of the permanent restoration of disaster-damaged facilities.

# COMMUNICATIONS

## **TC 1 National Telecommunications Policy (2010)**

WHEREAS, current consideration of National Telecommunications Policy could have a significant impact on the operations of small rural independent and cooperative communication systems in Iowa; and

WHEREAS, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 recognizes the importance of the nation's rural communications markets are different; and

WHEREAS, there has been discussion of updating the Telecommunications Act of 1996, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports communication policies which explicitly preserves the ability of rural communication systems to offer quality telecommunications services to their rural customers at reasonable rates; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports communication policies which includes the following provisions:

- 1) All interexchange carriers, competitive local exchange carriers, wireless carriers, voice over internet protocol (VoIP) providers, long distance resellers and companies that sell or use new types of communication and information services (ie Google, movie industry, ESPN and broadcast industry) for resale which utilize local communication exchange facilities must be required to pay their share of the cost of rural communication exchange facilities and services for their use of rural networks;
- 2) Ensure that rural subscribers are provided with access to a continually evolving, high quality, reliable, nationwide local distribution network capable of delivering a full range of services;
- 3) Continue support of the Rural Utility Service (RUS) loan programs at adequate funding levels and staffing levels; and
- 4) That the networks necessary for broadband communications in rural America be built, constructed and operated by private industry.

## **TC 2 Access and Universal Service Fund (USF) Reform (2010)**

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has asked national telecommunications associations to participate in developing a new system of access charges and rate of return regulation national broadband policy; and

WHEREAS, the State of Iowa mirrors some of the rules from the FCC national policy; and

WHEREAS, FCC rules provide USF portable funds to companies having Competitive Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (CETC) based on the incumbent local exchange carriers cost; and

# COMMUNICATIONS

WHEREAS, the requirements of the USF fund have been increasing at a rapid rate due to the increasing payments to competitive local exchange carriers, especially wireless providers; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the proposal contains provisions for comparable urban and rural rates, preservation of USF, any state or federal USF mechanism be based on the actual cost of the provider, flexibility for rate of return companies without using reverse auctions or capping USF, preservation of National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA) and a mechanism to prevent the erosion of interstate and state settlements.

### **TC 3 Cable Program Marketing (2012)**

WHEREAS, content and broadcast providers control the market for programs available for small cable television/video operators and use that market power to force small cable companies to add unwanted channels, charge substantial rate increases, and engage in other monopoly behavior; and

WHEREAS, these charges will result in dramatically higher prices for customers in rural areas for cable television/video service; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports legislation that will require content and broadcast providers to charge reasonable fees to all cable systems, to end the practice of confidential charges in agreements and to charge equal fees to satellite or large and small cable systems for the same content and reconsider retransmission consent rules that allow local broadcasters to demand any amount of money or carriage or associated cable channels related to telecommunication services.

# FARM CREDIT

## **FC 1 GSE Status (2012)**

WHEREAS, the Iowa Institute believes that the Farm Credit Banks and Banks for Cooperatives serve a vital and growing role in providing credit for Iowa and American agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the Farm Credit System is to provide sound, adequate constructive credit to Iowa and American farmers and cooperatives at reasonable cost to improve their income and well being; and

WHEREAS, these roles have not diminished in the intervening years since the System was created by the U.S. Congress; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives oppose any legislative or administrative actions which would:

- 1) negatively impact the Farm Credit System's status as a Government Sponsored Entity (GSE),
- 2) impose any new requirement on the Farm Credit system which would adversely impact the cost of funds and ultimately the cost of credit to farmers, ranchers and their cooperatives,
- 3) increase the mandatory capitalization requirements for institutions of the Farm Credit System or
- 4) change the regulatory structure of the Farm Credit System in such a way that this would: impose a super regulator over all GSEs, remove FCA as the principal safety and soundness regulator of the Farm Credit System, or impose any other similar changes.

## **FC 2 Farm Credit System (2012)**

WHEREAS, sound financial programs are important to farmers and their cooperatives; and

WHEREAS, growth in agriculture requires flexibility in financial programs and policies; and

WHEREAS, innovation in development of lending programs is beneficial for farmers and cooperatives; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives recommends and supports the Farm Credit System and its efforts to maintain current, competitive lending policies and programs, including appropriate services to rural areas (including small towns and communities), tailored to meet the needs of those who use the system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Institute further support improved flexibility of the System to serve the existing and emerging financial needs of farmers, ranchers, cooperatives, small towns and rural America.

## **FC 3 Preserving the Farm Credit System (2012)**

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Farm Credit System was created by Congress to serve Agriculture by providing a dependable source of credit at competitive rates; and

WHEREAS, certain actions and proposals would gravely impair the ability of the Farm Credit System to fulfill this mission; and

# FARM CREDIT

WHEREAS, if such actions or proposals were to be effected, the cooperative structure of the farmer owned and farmer controlled Farm Credit System would be altered and the competitive benefits to its members and other rural Americans would be threatened; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives strongly urges the Administration and the Congress to take no action which would in any way reduce the ability of the Farm Credit System to serve Agriculture. The Congress is urgently requested to be vigilant and prepared to deal appropriately with administrative and legislative proposals which would have a damaging impact on the cost or adequacy of the Farm Credit System loan funds or would impact or dilute the farmer ownership and control of the Farm Credit System, and its cooperative structure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives take very appropriate action to ensure the preservation of Farm Credit System as a dependable and reliable source of credit to agriculture at competitive rates.

#### **FC 4 Farm Credit Act – Cooperative Requirements (2012)**

WHEREAS, farmer owned cooperatives face growing challenges as they seek to compete and grow their businesses such as, access to capital, minimizing tax liability and developing greater operational flexibility in regard to sourcing farm products; and

WHEREAS, some farmer-owned cooperatives are moving to or considering new business structures different from the traditional cooperative model; and

WHEREAS, these new cooperatives or entities formed by current cooperatives may no longer meet the eligibility requirements for loans from CoBank as stated in Section 3.8 (a) of the Farm Credit Act; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives will support efforts to modify current law to enable CoBank to finance new cooperative structures and allow existing cooperatives to adjust their business model without fear of jeopardizing their long-standing relationship with their cooperative lender, CoBank.

# CREDIT UNIONS

## **CU1 Member Business Lending (2013)**

WHEREAS, credit unions exist to support the financial needs of their members-owners, including those that own small businesses, and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has set an arbitrary cap on how much credit unions can lend to member businesses; and

WHEREAS several Iowa credit unions will be meeting their member business lending caps in the near future which will impede their ability to help small businesses create jobs, opportunity and economic growth; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports federal action to lift the cap on member business lending that is currently imposed on credit unions.

## **CU2 Tax Status of Credit Unions (2013)**

WHEREAS, credit unions are not-for-profit financial cooperatives that are member-owned, democratically controlled, with a volunteer board of directors, and

WHEREAS, credit unions are taxed differently than for-profit financial institutions because of their unique ownership structure, and

WHEREAS, there are lobbying efforts to disadvantage credit unions by increasing their taxes, and

WHEREAS, if the lobbying efforts are successful in raising taxes on the credit union industry, credit unions and their member-owners will be harmed; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives opposes any legislation that would change the current credit union tax status.

# ISSUES IN COMMON

## 1. Primary & Secondary Roads and Bridges (2014)

WHEREAS, industry is dependent upon motor truck transportation; and

WHEREAS, by building on facilities already in place and upgrading existing two-lane highways to four lanes and by connecting upgraded highways to existing interstate highways an effective network of major routes connecting metropolitan areas can be achieved at substantial savings over construction of new interstate highways; and

WHEREAS, Iowa primary and secondary roads and bridges must be maintained and improved to serve shippers with modern equipment; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives:

- 1) Supports adequate financing for highway construction and maintenance recognizing that this may require modest increases in motor vehicle fuel taxes,
- 2) Supports motor vehicle fuel tax rates that encourage the use of biofuels,
- 3) Opposes the use of motor vehicle fuel taxes for purposes other than road construction, and maintenance or the clean-up of underground storage sites,
- 4) Opposes changes to Iowa's statutory formulas for the distribution of funds collected for the purpose of road construction and maintenance that would reduce the proportion currently designated for secondary and farm to market roads, and
- 5) Supports maintaining fuel tax refunds for fuel used for off highway purposes.

## 2. Iowa State University Facilities/Faculty (2013)

WHEREAS, the strength of Iowa's economy and potential for future prosperity is dependent upon the strength of Iowa's agricultural base, and, to be competitive, Iowa farms and agribusinesses of all sizes must be pacesetters in improved technology; and

WHEREAS, reducing the high cost of production relative to income and protecting our soil and water resources is essential to the creation of a sustainable agriculture and a healthful environment; and

WHEREAS, excellent minds, developed to their fullest, are Iowa's hope for the future and agricultural graduates are important contributors to progress in all sectors of agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Iowa State University has developed a rich history of leadership and excellence and a dedicated faculty which has provided new ideas and technologies to improve Iowa's agricultural economy; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports the funding of up-to-date research, technology and facilities at Iowa State University; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports faculty staffing levels adequate to achieve the mission of the land grant university system.

# ISSUES IN COMMON

## **3. Application of Transfer Tax in Business Consolidations (2012)**

WHEREAS, there is a lack of consistency by county officials in the application of the transfer tax to a change of ownership for rolling stock and other items in situations involving the merger or acquisition of companies; and

WHEREAS, these are not retail sales of such inventory and ought not to be subject to the tax; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives request the Iowa Legislature to remove any doubt by exempting such transfers.

## **4. Rural Cooperative Development (2012)**

WHEREAS, economic development in rural areas benefits all aspects of Iowa's economy, cooperatives included; and

WHEREAS, cooperatives as a form of business offer significant advantages in the promotion of community-based economic development; and

WHEREAS, legislation providing funds for rural development may be considered at state and national levels; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports the inclusion of cooperative development programs in any rural development programs initiated at the state or federal level.

## **5. Rural Health Care (2012)**

WHEREAS, hospitals in rural areas of Iowa are under heavy economic pressure, many towns have no doctors, and nursing and other related services are scarce; and

WHEREAS, the population of rural and small-town Iowa must have adequate health care, both for humanitarian and economic reasons; and

WHEREAS, the people of Iowa have told the Legislature that rural health care should be one of its top priorities; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Legislature and Congress in designing programs and in granting funding be encouraged to support use of the cooperative structure as a self-help means of health service delivery.

## **6. Environmental Issues Related to Watersheds (2013)**

WHEREAS, environmental protection approaches that are based on geographic watersheds are of critical importance in protection of water quality; and

WHEREAS, agricultural cooperatives are, and should be, participants in such efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Institute can facilitate this participation on a statewide basis; now therefore



# ISSUES IN COMMON

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives actively engage in watershed issues and participate to the extent possible in watershed protection organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports efforts to reduce nutrient runoff based on sound science and practical application and encourages appropriate funding for the voluntary programs.

## **7. Environmental Issues – Livestock & Poultry (2012)**

WHEREAS, a goal of Iowa agriculture is to add value to Iowa produced products; and

WHEREAS, furthering the economic interests of livestock and poultry producers includes retention of the livestock and agricultural products processing industry; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Iowa, and its infrastructure, benefit from the livestock and poultry industry through processing, manufacturing, construction and the employment created; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports the following efforts:

- 1) Scientific rationale in the application of livestock manure based upon the application rate vs. soil type and the plant up-take of nutrients,
- 2) That construction permit applications mandate a manure application easement,
- 3) That Iowa Code Chapter 459 and the Master Matrix be maintained as the official criteria relative for livestock operation sitting in Iowa,
- 4) The development of feed additives and other practices and technology to control odor,
- 5) Tax enhancements for all livestock and poultry producers regardless of the production capabilities,
- 6) Standardized statewide regulations determined by the elected representatives of the citizens of Iowa,
- 7) Creation of programs by Iowa State University, and others, to provide advice to producers regarding “good neighbor practices” in the management of a livestock production enterprises, and
- 8) Maintain the cap on the indemnity fund to reimburse county governments for the cost of emptying manure storage structures built under a construction permit from the DNR on property which a county has taken possession for nonpayment of property taxes

## **8. Nuisance Suits Regarding Farming and Agribusiness Activities (2012)**

WHEREAS, farming practices and agribusiness activities, both new and traditional, can sometimes generate machinery noise, dust, odors and other elements common to an agricultural environment that may not be understood, appreciated or well-tolerated by non-agricultural, rural residents; and

WHEREAS, this lack of understanding and tolerance can, and sometimes does, produce a real threat to the ability of a rural area to continue to conduct farming and agribusiness activities; now therefore

# ISSUES IN COMMON

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives support legislative efforts aimed at giving reasonable protection against nuisance suits and regulatory complaints for farming and agribusiness activities carried out in a responsible manner.

## **9. Legislative and Regulatory Initiatives (2013)**

WHEREAS, protecting the environment and promoting economic growth and efficient agricultural production are not mutually exclusive goals; and

WHEREAS, both federal and state legislative and regulatory activity focused on the environmental quality continues to escalate; and

WHEREAS, regulation, if ill-conceived, could adversely impact the economic viability of crop and livestock production and member-owned cooperatives that support agricultural producers in Iowa; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives will individually and with coalitions of commodity groups, producer and trade associations of common interest, educate and work with state legislative bodies and agencies to assure that such policies:

- 1) are based on accurate, objective peer reviewed science,
- 2) are not designed without regard to cost, imposing unacceptable economic burdens on producers or their cooperatives, and
- 3) are performance and incentive based to the greatest degree possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that government regulation should not restrict the size and scope of farm production through unwarranted regulation. America's family farmers should remain free to participate in the U.S. system of agriculture production that reveres individual proprietorship and private enterprise; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Institute oppose any efforts by local government to adopt laws and regulations more stringent than state or federal laws and regulations and by the state of Iowa to adopt laws and regulations more stringent than federal laws and regulations.

## **10. Meat and Poultry Production in Iowa (2012)**

WHEREAS, the livestock and poultry industry is critical to the economic health of Iowa and its cooperatives; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Legislature has recognized the need to safeguard this industry; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute participate in studies and actions relating to the role of cooperatives in enhancing meat and poultry production; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support cooperatives' direct involvement in meat and poultry production and processing; and

# ISSUES IN COMMON

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute support legislation to protect the economic environment for livestock and poultry production such as legislation for fair and equitable property tax assessments.

## **11. Animal Care (2011)**

WHEREAS, the production of livestock and dairy products is essential to the Iowa farm economy; and

WHEREAS, there is a lack of understanding of humane care of animals produced on American farms; and

WHEREAS, responsible livestock producers exercise diligent care for the health and well-being of their animals; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives promotes, through cooperation with all livestock commodity groups, the diligent care of animals by all segments of the livestock industry and also supports educational programs designed to help the general public to better understand the importance and contributions of the livestock industry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports the utilization of the indemnity fund designated to reimburse for emergency feeding procedures as necessary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives favors legislation to prohibit persons from gaining improper access to agricultural facilities associated with animal or crop operations.

## **12. Right to Work Law (2012)**

WHEREAS, we believe that each and every employee should have the individual choice of joining or not joining a union; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute favors retaining the Iowa Right to Work Law.

## **13. Biotechnology and Genetically Enhanced Organisms (2014)**

WHEREAS, Iowa cooperatives believe that science offers great potential for improving agricultural production efficiency and improving the environment; and

WHEREAS, science also offers the potential to enhance consumer value in food products through improved nutrition, flavor, pharmacological properties, and other food traits; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives urge the federal government to maintain rigid scientific standards that are based on sound science; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we oppose trade barriers that restrict market access to food and commodities derived from genetically enhanced products; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we oppose local and state restrictions or regulations on genetically enhanced products that have been approved at the federal level; and

# ISSUES IN COMMON

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives oppose any legislation which would negatively affect cooperative members involved in providing genetically enhanced seed technology, seed labeling, seed sales, and seed distribution.

## **14. Agricultural Contracting Legislation (2012)**

WHEREAS, contracting legislation for production of agricultural output is a common way of doing business in the livestock industry and is growing rapidly in the grain business and in the dairy business; and

WHEREAS, those members of the Iowa Institute which are farmer cooperatives are major players in the livestock business, the dairy business, and in the grain business; and

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced at both the state and federal level which seeks to broadly regulate these activities; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that, in order to protect the interest of member cooperatives and their farmer owners, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives actively engage, to the extent practical, in discussions and processes aimed at the development of such legislation.

## **15. Iowa Secretary of Agriculture (2012)**

WHEREAS, the Iowa Secretary of Agriculture is currently an elected position; and

WHEREAS, there has been legislation proposed in the Iowa General Assembly and in prior Iowa General Assemblies to make the Iowa Secretary of Agriculture an appointed position; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports the position that the Secretary of Agriculture shall continue to be an elected position in the State of Iowa.

## **16. Expansion of Renewable Transportation Fuels Use (2013)**

WHEREAS, Iowa is currently a leading producer of corn, soybeans, ethanol and biodiesel; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. continues to expand its dependence on petroleum products; and

WHEREAS, Iowa cooperatives have been leaders in the early adoption and marketing of biodiesel and ethanol blends including E85 to consumers while at the same time respecting the consumers right of choice; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports a strong preference for the use of ethanol and biodiesel transportation fuels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports the use of federal and state tax incentives, as well as, federal and state marketing infrastructure development initiatives combined with industry programs that promote and expand renewable transportation fuel consumption at the consumer level.

# ISSUES IN COMMON

## **17. Eminent Domain (2012)**

WHEREAS, court activity has the potential to expand the use of eminent domain; and

WHEREAS, eminent domain has been primarily and appropriately used in the past for public use and to restore blighted areas; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports legislation at the state and federal level that severely restricts or abolishes the condemnation of privately held land for the purpose of expanding private industry.

## **18. Limited Cooperative Statutes (2013)**

WHEREAS, the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL) has developed a model state law for Limited Cooperative Associations; and

WHEREAS, the model draft provides less flexibility in the areas of voting power for patrons, patron board representation and allocation of profits than Iowa Chapter 501A, the limited cooperative association statute passed by the Iowa General Assembly in 2005; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives will oppose any effort to conform Iowa Chapter 501A to the NCCUSL model statute in order to maintain for Iowa cooperative patrons the current level of utility and flexibility in governance and financing provided by Chapter 501A.

## **19. Hours of Service (2009)**

WHEREAS, The Iowa Institute for Cooperatives encourages safe operation of commercial vehicles and does not oppose reasonable trucking regulations; and

WHEREAS, certain rules proposed by the Federal Highway Administration restricting the hours of service that a commercial motor vehicle driver can work must not lead to substantial compliance costs for cooperatives, while yielding only questionable benefits; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives opposes restrictions on hours of service at both the state and federal level unless such proposals are based on well documented analysis and are justified.

## **20. Commercial Property Tax (2013)**

WHEREAS, excessive commercial property taxation is inconsistent with a prosperous economy and job creation in the State of Iowa; and

WHEREAS, commercial property is taxed in Iowa at a higher rate than other types of properties; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives favors legislation to provide further property tax relief to owners of commercial property in Iowa; provided, however, that such relief should not result in owners of other types of properties, such as agricultural and residential properties, having to pay property taxes at assessed values greater than are presently the case.

# ISSUES IN COMMON

## **21. Highway Conversions to Interstate (2014)**

WHEREAS, our industry is dependent upon adequate access to farm to market roads; and

WHEREAS, there has been a desire to convert four lane highways to interstate; and

WHEREAS, restrictions on interstates, particularly relating to speed minimums and weight limits, are problematic for implements used in agriculture; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that an economically feasible alternate route must be available for agriculture use before pursuing reclassification of an important four lane highway to an interstate.

## **22. Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Use (2014)**

WHEREAS, some Iowa cooperatives see the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) as valuable for tool for our members; and

WHEREAS, some Iowa cooperatives have already made investments in UAV technology; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Institute resists restrictions on appropriate commercial UAV use with the understanding that the cooperative must have permission of the farmer prior to use.

# GRAIN & FARM SUPPLY

## **GFS 1**

### **Grain Dealer, Warehouse, and Indemnity Fund Law (2012)**

WHEREAS, the Iowa Institute succeeded in gaining the support of the Iowa legislature for several important changes needed in the regulations governing Iowa's grain industry, one of which was a risk rating tool developed by Dr. Roger Ginder of Iowa State University to help the Grain Warehouse Bureau of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship focus their efforts on certain companies posing more risk to the indemnity fund; and

WHEREAS, the basis for implementation of these new regulations and the usefulness of Ginder's tool depends on the grain dealer's ability to submit an unquestionable sound financial statement—specifically an unqualified opinion audit; and

WHEREAS, a required unqualified opinion audit was adopted into law only for those dealers issuing credit-sale contracts, not across the board as was requested; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives commends the Iowa legislature for its wisdom in addressing much of the regulatory needs of the industry and also commends Dr. Roger Ginder for the development of a statistical risk rating model with which the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship can effectively analyze the soundness of a company; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IIC continue to seek a requirement in law that all grain dealers submit an unqualified opinion audit for licensure.

## **GFS 2**

### **Grain Dealer Law – Credit-Sale Contracts (2012)**

WHEREAS, in order to purchase grain by credit-sale contract under current Iowa law, a grain dealer must maintain fifty cents of net worth for each outstanding bushel of grain purchased under credit or maintain a deficiency bond or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of two thousand dollars for each one thousand dollars or fraction thereof of deficiency in net worth; and

WHEREAS, the grain dealer must also either submit an unqualified opinion audit or file a bond with the department in the amount of one hundred thousand dollars payable to the department in order to issue credit-sale contracts; and

WHEREAS, the primary purpose for having this law is to minimize the risk a producer faces in doing normal business with grain dealers rather than to cover all risks certain farmers may wish to take with some grain buyers; and

WHEREAS, the issuance of a credit-sale contract involves the seller turning over his ownership of the grain to the buyer based on a promise to pay for it at a later time and therefore causes the seller to take a higher risk than is involved in a cash sale; and

WHEREAS, the seller has voluntarily accepted this risk believing he will be compensated for that risk by gaining benefits beyond those offered by a cash sale; and

WHEREAS, sellers who choose not to take such risks by choosing carefully those companies they enter into such contracts with, or who choose not to enter into such contracts at all, should not have to support the size of grain indemnity fund it would take to cover the losses anticipated with coverage of such contracts when the buyer, for whatever reason, cannot pay the seller for his grain; now therefore

# GRAIN & FARM SUPPLY

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives recognizes the significant threat these contracts would pose to the fund and therefore resists any attempts to expand coverage by the indemnity fund for credit-sale contract losses.

## **GFS 3 Risk Equalization for Grain Dealers (2012)**

WHEREAS, laws and regulations for licensed grain elevators, federal and state, are to assure warehouse receipt holders that the warehouseman will perform as promised under the terms of the license; and

WHEREAS, through the State of Iowa Grain Indemnity Fund, producers of grain are assured that, under the terms of the license, a grain dealer will perform as promised; and

WHEREAS, the licensed grain dealer or warehouseman is rarely secure in a producer's promise to perform; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that in any consideration of legislation regarding risk in the grain trade, that the risks borne by licensed grain dealers or warehousemen be given equal consideration in achieving a fair balance of impact.

## **GFS 4 Regulation of Grain Dealers by States (2012)**

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture has issued a rule which asserts that federally licensed warehouses are not subject to state grain merchandising regulation and are not required to comply with state rules; and

WHEREAS, the absence of state grain merchandising regulation would mean there are no established standards for the grain industry in Iowa; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute oppose the implementation of such a rule by the USDA and that state and federal grain regulators be encouraged to work more closely together.

## **GFS 5 Iowa Department of Transportation Railway Assistance Funding (2009)**

WHEREAS, the Iowa Department of Transportation may provide loans to rail companies to make track and facility improvements so they can better serve Iowa's rail transportation users; and

WHEREAS, the potential for large carriers abandoning short, less profitable rail lines seems more likely with time; and

WHEREAS, the opportunity for co-ops and other businesses being able to purchase these lines appears likely as a result; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives support the existence and continued funding of the Iowa Department of Transportation Railway Assistance Program particularly since the lines receiving assistance affect so many co-op shippers.



# GRAIN & FARM SUPPLY

## **GFS 6 Authority of Attorney General (2012)**

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is, by law, the department responsible and most qualified for regulating those issues affecting the agriculture industry—specifically involving pesticide enforcement rules; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship bureau administering pesticide regulations has, on staff, persons with expertise in this area who understand the industry; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General's office has in the past sought independent authority in enforcing pesticide regulations prior to department referral (and currently has that authority in environmental issues); now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute oppose efforts by the Attorney General's office in seeking independent authority (prior to Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship's referral) to enforce pesticide regulations currently enforced by IDALS.

## **GFS 7 Air Quality Requirements (2012)**

WHEREAS, the federal Clean Air Act contains certain air quality attainment standards; and

WHEREAS, the states have been delegated the authority to enact regulatory programs to attain such air quality standards; and

WHEREAS, Iowa cooperatives' facilities are subject to the Iowa air quality regulatory process; and

WHEREAS, unattainable compliance requirements will result in tremendous costs to the Iowa cooperative facilities and weaken the ability of the Iowa cooperatives to compete with competitors in other states; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives work with its members, allied associations, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and if necessary, the Iowa General Assembly to maintain an air quality regulatory compliance program which implements reasonable, efficient and realistic requirements to achieve compliance with the Clean Air Act and which regulation program is no more stringent than air quality programs in other states.

## **GFS 8 Anhydrous Ammonia and Methamphetamines (2012)**

WHEREAS, there are increasing losses due to theft of anhydrous ammonia from transport, storage and application containers owned by agricultural cooperatives; and

WHEREAS, this product when handled by untrained and ill-equipped people is hazardous not only to them but also to innocent people in the area; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives play an active role in public education, awareness programs and legislative action regarding improper use of anhydrous ammonia so as to protect the public safety and to ensure the continued availability of anhydrous ammonia for use as a fertilizer.

# GRAIN & FARM SUPPLY

## **GFS 9 Direct Notice of Liens (2010)**

WHEREAS, the State of Iowa has a system where the lender notifies grain buyers directly of the existence of a lien; and

WHEREAS, this system most fairly places responsibility for collecting loans on the lender, while giving the lender an opportunity to enlist by force of law the help of any buyers he notifies; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives oppose any attempt to move from the present Iowa procedure to the central filing and notice option; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute supports stronger penalties being imposed on seller for noncompliance with the law.

## **GFS 10 Iowa Grain Indemnity Fund (2013)**

WHEREAS, the Iowa Grain Indemnity Fund was created in 1986 to protect grain producers who have grain in commercial storage facilities and those who have sold grain and that has not yet been paid for, excluding credit sale contracts;

WHEREAS, the volume of grain produced in Iowa, the amount of grain produced by each individual farmer and the price of that grain has increased dramatically;

WHEREAS, growers in Iowa require confidence in their transactions with commercial elevators in Iowa, including both cooperatives and privately owned elevators;

WHEREAS, the Iowa Grain Indemnity Fund is funded solely by checkoffs assessed against the first grain seller in Iowa and not through tax payer support;

WHEREAS, Iowa grain dealers are the accumulator of these funds which are then remitted to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Iowa Institute supports adequate funding for the Grain Indemnity Fund to assure grain producers of payment for any deficiencies of stored or warehouse receipted grain;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Iowa Institute support efforts to assess the adequacy of funding and, if needed, consider additional funding;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Iowa Institute supports collection of the assessment over 12 months in an effort to treat all grain sellers fairly, recognizing that this may require the need to raise the cap on the Iowa Grain Indemnity Fund.

## **GFS 11 Big Data (2014)**

WHEREAS, technology and sound data collection is a crucial part of agriculture today; and

WHEREAS, access to a great deal of comprehensive data can be tremendously beneficial when making key agribusiness decisions; and

WHEREAS, data collection, control and ownership of such data will continue to be a concern of farmers; now therefore

# GRAIN & FARM SUPPLY

BE IT RESOLVED that the farmer retains the right to who controls the data and how data is shared; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all agreements regarding data control between the farmer and companies controlling the data should be written in understandable terms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the farmer reserves the right to discontinue the relationship with the data holder if the farmer so chooses.

## **GFS 12            Air Quality Bureau Funding (2014)**

WHEREAS, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Air Quality Bureau has recently experienced a significant budget shortfall; and

WHEREAS, the Air Quality Bureau is exploring alternative funding methods; and

WHEREAS, currently 75% of the Air Quality Bureau's income comes from Title V fees; and

WHEREAS, minor source permit holders require significantly less resources from the Air Quality Bureau and do not currently pay fees to the Bureau; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute supports fair and equitable funding of the Air Quality Bureau; and

BE IT FURTHERER RESOLVED, the Iowa Institute would be open to a reasonable minor source construction permit fee reflective of permit issuances expenses, however we do not believe an annual permit fee is appropriate.

## **GFS 13            Modernization of the Fertilizer Tax and Pesticide Fees (2014)**

WHEREAS, the Iowa Groundwater Protection Act, enacted in 1987, established a fertilizer tax, pesticide dealer licensing fees and pesticide manufacturing registration fees; and

WHEREAS, the Groundwater Protection Act was created to provide funding for programs that would address water quality concerns; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports modernizing the Iowa Groundwater Protection Act to meet the current water quality needs of the industry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Institute opposes any legislation which would designate use of these funds for any other purposes other than appropriate water quality projects.

# ENERGY

## **P 1 Shrink Formula (2012)**

WHEREAS, petroleum companies insulate the state and federal government against bad debt and the cost of collection of state and federal motor fuel taxes; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED we endorse the current formula and percentage allowances used for calculating the shrink for state excise tax on gasoline, diesel and ethanol and recommend their use in calculating shrink for federal purposes.

## **P 2 Underground Storage Tanks and Tank Cleanup Fund (2012)**

WHEREAS, the members of Iowa's cooperatives share the concern of water and air quality with other Iowans; and

WHEREAS, we want to encourage the propagation of practical solutions to environmental problems; and

WHEREAS, Iowa's cooperatives have paid substantial sums into this fund for the purpose of funding cleanup of contaminated sites; and

WHEREAS, there have been attempts by special interest groups to use a portion of these funds for other purposes; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives oppose any legislation which would use these funds for any other purpose other than cleanup of contaminated petroleum sites; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives asks the Environmental Protection Commission of the DNR not to adopt rules on underground petroleum storage more restrictive than the present federal rules; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute opposes changes in the parameters of qualifications for financial assistance pertaining to net worth.

## **P 3 Motor Fuel Quality Assurance and Taxation (2012)**

WHEREAS, recent technology development and product introduction can result in changes to the motor fuel industry and traditional supply chain product movement; and

WHEREAS, product quality assurance for the consumer is key to growth in the emerging bio-fuel industry; and

WHEREAS, failure on the part of suppliers to charge and collect all statutory state and federal tax on motor fuel sales can create unfair and illegal marketplace pricing; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports and encourages enforcement of Iowa's statutory motor fuel quality standards and collection of all required state and federal fuel tax revenues on consumer motor fuel sales.

# ENERGY

**P 4 Mandated Delivery of Propane (2011)**

WHEREAS, propane marketers are not regulated utilities and, therefore, have no competitive or financial protection; and

WHEREAS, a large number of propane marketers in Iowa provides for the competitive availability of propane gas to LP users; and

WHEREAS, the propane component of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a very successful voluntary program involving independent propane marketers who together serve approximately 10,000 customers with a low complaint rate; and

WHEREAS, propane marketers acknowledge that participation in the LIHEAP program may result in the marketers having to extend credit; and

WHEREAS, the LIHEAP benefits do not usually provide propane customers with sufficient quantities of propane through the winter; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED the Iowa Institute supports that propane marketers continue to work with their LIHEAP customers on a reasonable basis and exercise appropriate business judgment on behalf of either the customer or the marketer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute does not support adopting legislation which would: (i) eliminate propane marketers' discretion with respect to the customers the propane marketers choose to do business; and (ii) dictate the terms and conditions of the business transactions between the propane marketers and their customers.

# ELECTRIC

## **E 1 National Transmission Policy (2012)**

WHEREAS, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives believes that the development of a national grid system and the creation of regional power marketing and transmission authorities may result in the utilization of existing generation and transmission facilities by consumers who, because of their location, are not required to pay any of the costs associated therewith; and

WHEREAS, efficient transmission facilities are required to fully use sources of electric energy to meet the needs of the people of Iowa as permanent pathways for energy comparable to highways and railroads; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute oppose enactment of legislation that would impose further restrictions on the acquisition and use of rights-of-way required for owned and operated electric transmission lines as defined in Iowa Code 476; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports the continued development of a grid system through power and transmission planning by regional authorities and the National Electric Reliability Council which promotes the exchange of capacity and energy available because of seasonal and load diversity, the addition of system facilities necessary to provide for such exchanges, and that all movements of power and energy shall be coordinated through regional reliability groups which follow reliability standards of NERC, provided the costs incurred by individual power suppliers participating in such a system be borne in an equitable manner and will not jeopardize the service to existing members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports the development of a robust transmission system that can accommodate distributed generation but only if built in a cost effective manner and only if a direct benefit to Iowa member consumers can be determined.

## **E 2 Research and Development (2009)**

WHEREAS, there is a need to develop and use efficient and economic sources of energy and procedures for energy use, including solar, geothermal, coal, wind, biomass, natural gas and nuclear sources, underground and high voltage transmission systems and applications through research projects that require support of all segments of the electric utility industry and other research projects that can be locally developed and supported; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives encourage continued support and participation in projects for energy research and development in areas such as carbon capture and sequestration and storage, fluidized bed, coal gasification, hydrodynamics, natural gas, underground and high voltage transmission, Iowa Test and Evaluation Facility, small nuclear reactors and other related research.

## **E 3 Energy Efficiency (2012)**

WHEREAS, efficient use of electric energy is in the best interest of the consumers served by members of the Iowa Institute, and such efficient use will avoid waste and make unnecessary certain high cost additions to energy sources;

# ELECTRIC

WHEREAS, rural electric cooperatives support cost-effective energy efficiency programs and are responsive to the needs of our member-owners in managing locally designed programs

WHEREAS, The overarching strategy of cooperatives' energy-efficiency programs is to ensure that member-consumers have access to cost-effective, energy-efficiency programs that help member-consumers better manage their electricity consumption and also are beneficial to the environment.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives commend and urge full support for programs to inform and advise our consumers to practice sound energy utilization; to recognize and install efficient weatherization and insulation; and the wise use of all available sources of energy for food production, gainful employment, and desirable human living standards.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports only those energy efficiency programs that are cost effective and also believes that cooperatives should retain local control over which energy efficiency programs best serve their member consumers.

## **E 4 Assigned Electric Utility Service Areas (2012)**

WHEREAS, the Iowa General Assembly has declared it to be in the public interest to encourage the development of coordinated statewide electric service at retail to eliminate or avoid unnecessary duplication of electric utility facilities and to promote economical, efficient, and adequate electric service to the public; and

WHEREAS, to achieve these ends, the Iowa General Assembly directed the Iowa Utility Board to determine assigned service area boundaries for each electric utility in Iowa, and these areas have been assigned by the Iowa Utility Board; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of these assigned service areas has provided stability for public utilities and the residents of this state and has eliminated the many problems which have arisen in other states where such a law does not exist; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives declares its support for the existing Iowa Assigned Utility Service Area Law.

## **E 5 Taxes (2012)**

WHEREAS, taxes on gasoline, carbon, and BTUs have been proposed to assist in reducing the state and federal budget deficit; and

WHEREAS, the electric utility industry in this nation will be required to expend considerable amounts of funds to meet the Clean Air Act requirements and these costs will be borne by the electric consumers in this country; and

WHEREAS, taxes imposed directly upon the energy products industry, including rural electric cooperatives, are very regressive, penalizing lower income and rural residents who spend a greater proportion of their income on those services; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives opposes the imposition of special taxes on

# ELECTRIC

energy products by the state or federal government to reduce the deficit or fund projects in which all citizens have an interest and supports the use of general fund revenues for these programs.

## **E 6 Disaster Assistance (2012)**

WHEREAS, rural electric cooperatives incur severe damages from ice storms and other natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, these storms impose a severe financial hardship upon the cooperatives and the consumer-members; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports the prioritizing of RUS insured loan applications in order to assure the availability of FEMA funds that provide assistance to rural electric cooperatives which have incurred considerable damage resulting from natural disasters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports the appropriation of adequate federal and state dollars to fund the public assistance and mitigation programs to respond to Iowa's disasters.

## **E 7 Effects on the Environment (2009)**

WHEREAS, our economy and our environment must co-exist; and

WHEREAS, our local and national economy is part of a world economy; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives asks that the state and federal governments support the equal treatment of all countries and regions in our country, when dealing with all types of emissions that may have an effect on the environment.

## **E 8 Interconnection of Distributed Generation (2013)**

WHEREAS, the future of distributed or dispersed generation is an important issue for electric cooperatives. It has the potential of bringing substantial benefit to electric cooperatives and their consumers, but could also present contractual, economic, reliability, operational and safety concerns.

WHEREAS, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports the development of distributed generation technologies and see the benefits they can provide to cooperatives and consumers. Electric cooperatives are encouraged to develop policies regarding distributed generation, including safety, reliability and engineering requirements, and rates and costs, coordinated and integrated on a G and T-wide basis where applicable.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives opposes legislative or regulatory initiatives with respect to distributed generation, feed-in tariffs, and net metering that would increase rates, degrade reliability or safety, or impose other undue economic costs on electric cooperatives and their member consumers, or interfere with the power supply or other contractual relationship between cooperatives.



# ELECTRIC

## **E9 Uniform FEMA Policy on Storm Recovery Funding (2013)**

WHEREAS, federal assistance is made available to electric cooperatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to rebuild their facilities which are damaged as a result of presidentially declared emergencies. FEMA's criteria for determining the extent to which the permanent restoration of disaster-damaged rural electric cooperative facilities is eligible for funding should be clearly established by policies to be implemented nationally.

WHEREAS, in spite of the clearly stated language in the applicable FEMA policy document, with no previous notice, FEMA Region 7 is imposing requirements for proving the pre and post-storm condition of the applicants' overhead conductor in a way never before known or anticipated to exist.

WHEREAS, circumstances have arisen whereby FEMA has initially determined that rebuilding projects are eligible for funding and have obligated funds for such projects only to subsequently conclude that its funding approval should not have been made. The unilateral adoption, without notice, of policies effecting project eligibility could result in FEMA funding de-obligation determinations which must not be allowed because these determinations are contrary to the intent of the Stafford Act, FEMA's governing regulations and policies and because they place a significant financial burden on cooperatives that act in reasonable reliance on the decisions of FEMA and, ultimately, their members.

WHEREAS, FEMA's use of personnel with limited training or who are unfamiliar with the facilities owned and operated by rural electric cooperatives and who assist in the preparation and processing of damage survey reports and project development has led to inconsistent determinations regarding the extent to which cooperative systems are to be restored within and among FEMA Regions.

WHEREAS, clear and up-to-date criteria in the form of national policies which are uniformly implemented are needed because eligibility decisions effectively determine the level of federal spending for public assistance.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives urges FEMA to develop and uniformly implement national policies for determining eligibility for public assistance and the extent of the permanent restoration of disaster-damaged facilities.

# COMMUNICATIONS

## **TC 1 Iowa Communications Network (ICN) (2014)**

WHEREAS, cooperative communication companies support the concept of “distance-learning” as a tool to enhance education in K-12 schools; and

WHEREAS, public policy considerations for further expansion of state and local government telecommunication services discourages private investment and competitive entry by private companies; and

WHEREAS, there is discussion in the state of Iowa to sell the ICN in all or part; and

WHEREAS, there is discussion in the state of Iowa to expand the use of the Iowa Communications Network and expand or build other networks for public safety and emergency responders, education, transportation, health care providers and other agencies; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives oppose the further expansion of such networks including the ICN both as to the authorized users or authorized uses of the network; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that public officials be encouraged to use private networks to satisfy the connectivity needs of public safety and emergency responders, education, transportation, health providers and other agencies.

## **TC 2 Broadband Deployment (2014)**

WHEREAS, data and studies illustrate that broadband access, adoption and use contribute to economic growth, productivity and job creation, and

WHEREAS, broadband has become a necessity for using the Internet effectively – from social, political, and cultural engagement; for improved business processes and applications; accessing information, to the development of innovative ideas and inventions, and

WHEREAS, the Governor has directed the STEM Advisory Council Broadband Committee to make recommendations on broadband deployment across Iowa; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that policies and legislative proposals incent deployment, increase consumer education and demand and create a more favorable regulatory environment necessary for the expansion of broadband growth, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, state policies to increase broadband deployment should focus on expanding the use of private networks and that limited financial resources in the form of state incentives not be used to overbuild existing networks.

## **TC 3 Voice Regulation (2014)**

WHEREAS, there is only one interconnected public communications network, and it relies on both old and new and evolving technology to deliver many different services including traditional voice service and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP); and

# COMMUNICATIONS

WHEREAS, the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) conducted an Inquiry into Telecom Regulation and determined that there is no reason for regulating VoIP in a different manner than other voice telecommunications services, and

WHEREAS, the IUB noted in its report that a difference in regulatory activity could create and artificial competitive advantage based on the technology used; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports the IUB recommendation that all voice communications services (traditional, VoIP or other) be regulated in an equitable and equal manner.

#### **TC 4 Cable Program Marketing (2014)**

WHEREAS, content and broadcast providers control the market for programs available for small cable television/video operators and use that market power to force small cable companies to add unwanted channels, charge substantial rate increases, and engage in other monopoly behavior; and

WHEREAS, these charges will result in dramatically higher prices for customers in rural areas for cable television/video service; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports legislation that will require content and broadcast providers to charge reasonable fees to all cable systems, to end the practice of confidential charges in agreements and to charge equal fees to satellite or large and small cable systems for the same content and reconsider retransmission consent rules that allow local broadcasters to demand any amount of money or carriage or associated cable channels related to telecommunication services.

# AG PROD. & PROCESSING

## **APP 1 Uniform Standards (2012)**

WHEREAS, Iowa dairy laws and departmental rules are instrumental in assuring excellent quality control of all milk and manufactured dairy products produced in Iowa; and

WHEREAS, uniform standards for interstate shipments of milk are essential; and

WHEREAS, it is occasionally necessary for Iowa laws to be updated to meet uniform standards; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives support the use of the state enabling act to update Iowa Department Rules and Regulations pertaining to the inspection and grading of Grade A milk and milk used for manufacturing purposes..

## **APP 2 Special Milk. . .School Lunch. . .Food Stamp Programs (2012)**

WHEREAS, these programs are excellent ways whereby extra benefits may be derived through greater use of dairy products in improving the diet and health of children and low income families; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that (1) we favor changes that would encourage, rather than discourage, the increased use of milk and milk products in the school lunch or special milk programs and encourage the use of homogenized milk as a beverage and which will enhance the nutritional aspects of these programs, and (2) we support the food stamp program with improved surveillance to prevent abuse, and (3) encourage the installation and use of dairy product vending machines in Iowa schools.

## **APP 3 Milk Inspection Funding (2012)**

WHEREAS, inspection programs were designed primarily to upgrade the quality of milk for the protection of the consumer; and

WHEREAS, current inspection programs are funded primarily by industry fees; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that any increases to funding for inspection programs come from the State General Funds.

## **APP 4 Unpasteurized Milk Sales (2013)**

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest and good health of the people of Iowa to prohibit the sale of unpasteurized milk for human consumption; and

WHEREAS, an outbreak of milk borne disease in this state would be detrimental to the people of Iowa and also to the entire dairy industry; and

WHEREAS, pasteurization is a proven method of eliminating such hazards; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute encourages the Iowa Legislature to resist any change in present law concerning the sale of pasteurized Grade A milk and ask our Secretary of Agriculture to actively enforce the law which prohibits the sale of unpasteurized milk for human consumption.

# AG PROD. & PROCESSING

## **APP 5            Labeling (2012)**

WHEREAS, improper and misleading labeling of dairy products and/or imitation dairy products affects consumers and the dairy industry; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that (1) we support and urge that the State Department of Agriculture continue to monitor these products for compliance with labeling laws, and (2) we support the use of the "Real Seal" label.

## **APP 6            Addition of Solids in Dairy Products (2012)**

WHEREAS, flavor of milk varies seasonally due to the variation of solids (not fat) in milk; and

WHEREAS, the addition of solids (not fat) to fluid milk improves the nutrition and flavor of the product; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute endorses state and national legislation which will set minimum standards for solids (not fat) in milk to conform with those presently in effect in California.

## **APP 7            Iowa Livestock Health Advisory Council (ILHAC) (2012)**

WHEREAS, livestock health is a routine concern for the agriculture industry; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports an ongoing appropriation to ILHAC adequate to fund research of new and existing health threats to Iowa's livestock industry.

## **APP 8            Sales Tax on Cleaning Chemicals for Food Processing (2012)**

WHEREAS, in 1985 the Iowa Legislature responded to a need of processors by passing legislation to clarify that energy, chemicals, reagents, etc. used for processing of dairy and other food products is exempt from Iowa sales and use tax; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Department of Revenue has denied this exemption as it applies to cleaning chemicals and agents, which are an integral and necessary element of food processing; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute, in cooperation with other concerned associations, encourage the Iowa Department of Revenue to properly interpret the law to recognize the exemption of these cleaning chemicals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if the Iowa Department of Revenue is unwilling to change its position, the IIC encourage legislation to clarify the 1985 law to include the exemption of cleaning chemicals used in food processing.

# AG PROD. & PROCESSING

## **APP 9          Soil and Water Conservation Programs (2012)**

WHEREAS, USDA and NRCS programs have had a positive influence on water and soil conservation, participating producers and the general population of the U.S., and

WHEREAS, these programs often are under funded or the first to be cut as a result of federal spending constraints; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports continuation and higher priority for funding placed toward those federal programs that generate the highest impact and return per dollar spent as incentives to encourage soil and water conservation and improved water quality.

## **APP 10          Milk Case Deposits (2012)**

WHEREAS, the loss of milk cases in Iowa is a multi-million dollar annual cost to the industry; and

WHEREAS, this cost is ultimately borne by the consumers of Iowa dairy products; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Justice Department prohibits dairy product distributors to enter into binding voluntary agreements for assessing milk case deposits to buyers of dairy products; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the IIC support the efforts of ISDA and others for legislation requiring the assessment of milk case deposits on sales of dairy products in Iowa.

## **APP 11          Beginning Farmers (2012)**

WHEREAS, Iowa's population of beginning farmers has been in rapid decline; and

WHEREAS, individuals desiring to begin farming often lack the financial resources to establish their enterprise; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports public and private initiatives designed to encourage and incent landowners to work with beginning farmers to lower the barriers to entry often encountered by this new generation of producers.

# FARM CREDIT

## **FC 1 Fair and Equitable Treatment of Agricultural Lenders (2012)**

WHEREAS, the Institute recognizes various cooperative and commercial lending institutions in the state, and the need to fairly address credit problems; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Institute urges the legislature and Governor to treat all lenders in a fair and equitable manner in any legislation which might affect the operations of these lenders.

## **FC 2 Level of Inquiry – Toxic Wastes (2012)**

WHEREAS, Iowa agricultural production is dependent on protection of groundwater quality and avoidance of toxic wastes; and

WHEREAS, contamination of property and groundwater poses a threat to the Iowa agricultural economy and places both buyers of farm real estate and those who provide financing for them at risk with regard for real estate transactions; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports limiting potential liability of buyers and lenders based on a reasonable level of inquiry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute supports limiting liability of lenders to situations when the lender actually controls waste management decisions of the borrower.

# CREDIT UNIONS

## **CU1 Tax Status of Credit Unions (2014)**

WHEREAS, credit unions are not-for-profit financial cooperatives that are member-owned, democratically controlled, with a volunteer board of directors, and

WHEREAS, credit unions are taxed differently than for-profit financial institutions because of their unique ownership structure, and

WHEREAS, there are lobbying efforts to disadvantage credit unions by increasing their taxes, and

WHEREAS, if the lobbying efforts are successful in raising taxes on the credit union industry, credit unions and their member-owners will be harmed; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives opposes any legislation that would change the current credit union tax status.

## **CU2 Credit Union Services (2014)**

WHEREAS, not-for-profit credit unions exist to serve the financial needs of their member-owners, and

WHEREAS, credit union members expect their credit union to provide them with contemporary financial services, and

WHEREAS, the financial services marketplace is extremely competitive and ever-changing; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives supports legislation that helps credit unions remain contemporary in the financial services marketplace and provide their members with the services they need.