



Iowa Institute for Cooperatives Policy Resolutions

As Last Amended by Voting Delegates
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ISSUES IN COMMON

STATE ISSUES IN COMMON

1. 1 PRIMARY & SECONDARY ROADS AND BRIDGES (2022)

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 (IIC):

- 1) Supports adequate financing for road construction and maintenance.
- 2) Supports motor vehicle fuel tax rates that encourage the use of biofuels.
- 3) Supports taxation for road construction and maintenance, of all licensed vehicles.
- 4) Opposes the use of motor vehicle fuel taxes for purposes other than road construction and maintenance,
- 5) Opposes changes to Iowa's statutory formulas for the distribution of funds collected for road construction and maintenance that would reduce the proportion currently designated for secondary and farm to market roads.

2. 2 IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY FACILITIES/FACULTY (2023)

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 leaders in improved technology; and

WHEREAS, reducing the cost of production while protecting our soil and water resources is essential to sustainable agriculture; 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 IIC supports:

- 1) The funding of progressive research, technology and facilities at Iowa State University.
- 2) Adequate faculty staffing levels to achieve the mission of the land grant university system.

ISSUES IN COMMON

3. 3 APPLICATION OF TRANSFER TAX IN BUSINESS CONSOLIDATIONS (2022)

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 IIC requests the Iowa Legislature exempt such transfers.

4. 4 RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT (2022)

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 IIC:

- 1) Supports the inclusion of cooperative development programs in any rural development programs initiated at the state or federal level.
- 2) Supports the development of state economic incentives programs that complement the federal rural economic development programs.

5. 5 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES RELATED TO WATERSHEDS (2021)

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

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

WHEREAS, IIC can facilitate this participation on a statewide basis; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that IIC:

- 1) Actively engage in watershed issues and participate, to the extent possible, in watershed protection organizations.
- 2) Efforts to reduce nutrient runoff based on sound science that supports the Nutrient Reduction Strategy and practical application and encourages appropriate funding for the voluntary programs.

ISSUES IN COMMON

6. 6 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES – LIVESTOCK & POULTRY (2022)

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 IIC 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) Construction permit applications mandate a manure application easement.
- 3) Iowa Code Chapter 459 and the Master Matrix be 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, providing advice to producers regarding “good neighbor practices” in the management of a livestock production enterprises.
- 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.

7. 7 NUISANCE SUITS REGARDING FARMING AND AGRIBUSINESS ACTIVITIES (2022)

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that IIC supports legislative efforts aimed at giving reasonable protection against nuisance suits and regulatory complaints for farming and agribusiness activities carried out in a responsible manner.

ISSUES IN COMMON

8. 8* LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY INITIATIVES (2022)

WHEREAS, federal and state legislative and regulatory activity continues to escalate, which can have adverse effects on agricultural production and agribusiness activity; and

WHEREAS, regulation, if ill-conceived, could adversely impact the economic viability of agriculture production and cooperatives that support agricultural producers; and

WHEREAS, at times current law and regulation unnecessarily and unintentionally burdens new innovations and business practices; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that regulatory implementation and oversight should adhere to legislative intent and a rulemaking process that is based on scientific data that is peer reviewed, subject to independent analysis and stakeholder input, and respects the current practicalities and economics of doing business.

9. 9 ANIMAL CARE (2021)

WHEREAS, the production of livestock & 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 IIC:

- 1) 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.
- 2) Supports the utilization of the indemnity fund designated to reimburse for emergency feeding procedures as necessary.
- 3) Supports legislation to prohibit persons from gaining improper access to agricultural facilities associated with animal or crop operations.
- 4) Encourages fair market practices between all states to ensure access to all available domestic markets.

10. 10 RIGHT TO WORK LAW (2022)

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 IIC favors retaining the Iowa Right to Work Law.

ISSUES IN COMMON

11.11* BIOTECHNOLOGY AND BIOENGINEERED PRODUCTS (2019)

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 IIC:

- 1) Urges federal & state governments, as well as international trade agreements to maintain rigid scientific standards, based on sound science.
- 2) Opposes trade barriers restricting market access to food and commodities derived from genetically enhanced products.
- 3) Opposes local and state restrictions or regulations on genetically enhanced products that have been approved at the federal level.
- 4) Opposes any legislation which would negatively affect cooperative members involved in providing genetically enhanced seed technology, seed labeling, seed sales, and seed distribution.

12.12 AGRICULTURAL CONTRACTING LEGISLATION (2022)

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 IIC 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 owner actively engage, to the extent practical, in discussions and processes aimed at the development of such legislation.

13.13 IOWA SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE (2022)

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 IIC supports the position that the Secretary of Agriculture shall continue to be an elected position in the State of Iowa.

ISSUES IN COMMON

14.14 EXPANSION OF RENEWABLE TRANSPORTATION FUELS USE (2021)

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

WHEREAS, the U.S. continues to depend on petroleum products; and

WHEREAS, Iowa cooperatives have been leaders in the early adoption and marketing of biofuel blends to consumers while at the same time respecting the consumers right of choice and the retailers' right of product choice; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that IIC supports:

- 1) The use of ethanol and bio-based fuels.
- 2) The use of federal and state tax incentives, as well as, federal and state marketing infrastructure development initiatives combined with industry programs promoting and expanding renewable transportation fuel consumption at the consumer level.
- 3) An expansion of Iowa's infrastructure grant program to specifically increase grant funding from \$50,000 to \$100,000/project to help update outdated infrastructure, especially in rural communities.

15.15 EMINENT DOMAIN (2021)

WHEREAS, regulatory and government 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 IIC supports current law and legislation at the state level that severely restricts or abolishes the condemnation of privately held land for the purpose of expanding private industry.

16.16 LIMITED COOPERATIVE STATUTES (2023)

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 IIC will oppose any effort to conform Iowa Chapter 501A to the NCCUSL model statute in order to maintain the current level of utility and flexibility in governance and financing provided by Chapter 501A, for Iowa cooperative patrons.

ISSUES IN COMMON

17.17 HOURS OF SERVICE (2020)

WHEREAS, IIC 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 IIC 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 as in emergency situations including supply shortages, pandemic or other health emergencies, and during harvest each year.

18.18 COMMERCIAL PROPERTY TAX (2021)

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that IIC favors legislation to provide further property tax relief to owners of commercial property in Iowa; provided that such relief does not result in owners of other types of properties, such as agricultural and residential, pay property taxes at increased rates.

19.19 HIGHWAY CONVERSIONS TO INTERSTATE (2022)

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 or safe exemptions of weight limits and speed minimums must be available to use before pursuing reclassification of an important four lane highway to an interstate.

20.20 COMMUNITY COLLEGES (2020)

WHEREAS, Iowa cooperatives recognize the value in the education and training provided by Iowa's community colleges; and

WHEREAS, Iowa cooperative management struggle to find and hire qualified employees with the required skill set to meet the needs of the cooperative; and

WHEREAS, skills acquired at community colleges are especially desirable in the cooperative workforce; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that IIC supports adequate funding and staffing levels of Iowa's community colleges and encourages coordination for training and cooperative employee development.

ISSUES IN COMMON

21.21 NATURAL RESOURCES AND OUTDOOR TRUST FUND (2021)

WHEREAS, the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund was established following passage of a constitutional amendment in 2010; and

WHEREAS, funding of the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust fund is triggered by a sales tax increase approved by the Iowa Legislature where 3/8 of a cent from the sales tax revenue would be allocated to the Fund; and

WHEREAS, the 3/8 of a cent is estimated to generate over \$180 million per year; and

WHEREAS, Iowa's cooperative members recognize the importance of providing sustainable funding for soil and water conservation projects; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that IIC supports raising the sales tax provided a majority from the 3/8 cent increase be appropriated for additional science-based, voluntary soil/water conservation practices and programs.

22.22 FINANCIAL LITERACY (2020)

WHEREAS, Iowa's cooperatives are member driven organizations that are served best when Iowa's citizens are well educated; and

WHEREAS, an understanding of the basics of personal finance is essential to a well-educated citizenry and is a collaborative effort between the public and private sector; and

WHEREAS, there are successful financial literacy programs available to Iowans with the tools to better understand debt and its impact on family finances, as well as how to conduct financial transactions and manage family debt; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that IIC supports financial literacy education programs in Iowa and recommends the Iowa legislature to support those programs with reasonable funding.

23.23 BEGINNING FARMERS (2022)

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 IIC 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.

ISSUES IN COMMON

24.24 MINIMUM WAGE (2021)

WHEREAS, wages are driven by market forces of supply and demand; and

WHEREAS, varying minimum wage standards hinder growth and economic development and diverts attention from the issue of employers needing a qualified labor force; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, IIC believes local governments should not establish minimum wage rates that differ from the state minimum wage.

25.25 CHILDCARE (2021)

WHEREAS, Iowa's cooperatives are member-owned organizations that are served best when Iowa's citizens are financially stable and

WHEREAS, affordable and accessible childcare is essential for a growing workforce and economy. The cost of childcare is rising in Iowa, and families across the state are struggling to both find and afford childcare.

BE IT RESOLVED, that IIC supports public policy that makes childcare more affordable and accessible.

26.26 TENURE AT REGENT UNIVERSITIES (2023)

WHEREAS, tenured positions allow for innovative research and stability on higher education campuses; and

WHEREAS, rural Iowa and agriculture depend on the research from tenure positions; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that IIC opposes any effort to eliminate tenure positions at Regent Universities.

GRAIN & FARM SUPPLY

STATE GRAIN & FARM SUPPLY

27. GFS1 GRAIN DEALER, WAREHOUSE, AND INDEMNITY FUND LAW (2021)

WHEREAS, IIC recognizes the importance of maintaining a strong, prosperous, and secure grain industry in Iowa; and

WHEREAS, the Grain Warehouse Bureau of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship focuses their efforts on overseeing the viability of Iowa grain companies thus identifying those companies posing a potential risk to the indemnity fund; and

WHEREAS, a risk assessment depends on the grain dealer's ability to submit an unquestionable, sound financial audit – 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 IIC continues to seek a requirement in law that all grain dealers submit an unqualified opinion audit for licensure.

28. GFS2 GRAIN DEALER LAW – CREDIT-SALE CONTRACTS (2022)

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 later 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

BE IT RESOLVED, that IIC recognizes the significant threat these contracts pose to the fund and therefore resist any attempts to expand coverage by the indemnity fund for credit-sale contract losses.

GRAIN & FARM SUPPLY

29. GFS3 RISK EQUALIZATION FOR GRAIN DEALERS (2022)

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.

30. GFS4 MODERNIZING GRAIN DEALER AND WAREHOUSE OPERATOR LAW (2022)

WHEREAS, grain marketing practices have changed leading to longer contract lengths and longer times a grain dealer or warehouse operator has physical possession of grain; and

WHEREAS, farming and business practices continually innovate to meet new challenges, utilize new technologies, and adapt to new marketing strategies; and

WHEREAS, at times current legislation and regulation unnecessarily and unintentionally hinder these innovations, uses of new technology, or more efficient ways to conduct business; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, IIC supports updating the grain dealer and warehouse operator laws and regulations to allow for more efficient business practices.

31. GFS5 IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RAIL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (2020)

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 IIC supports the existence and continued funding of the Iowa Department of Transportation Rail Development Assistance Programs including the Railroad Revolving Loan and Grant (RRLG) and Linking Iowa's Freight Transportation System (LIFTS) programs, particularly since the lines receiving assistance impact co-op shippers.

GRAIN & FARM SUPPLY

32. GFS6 AUTHORITY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL (2022)

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; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship 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 IIC opposes efforts by the Attorney General's office in seeking independent authority (prior to Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship's referral) to enforce regulations currently enforced by IDALS.

33. GFS7 AIR QUALITY REQUIREMENTS (2022)

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 IIC 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.

34. GFS8 ANHYDROUS AMMONIA AND METHAMPHETAMINES (2022)

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 IIC plays 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

35. GFS9 DIRECT NOTICE OF LIENS (2023)

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, that IIC:

- 1) Opposes any attempt to move to central filing and away from direct notice.
- 2) Supports stronger penalties being imposed on seller for noncompliance with the law.

36. GFS10 IOWA GRAIN INDEMNITY FUND (2022)

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; and

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; and

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

WHEREAS, the Iowa Grain Indemnity Fund has been funded solely by assessments against the first grain seller in Iowa and not through taxpayer support; and

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that IIC supports:

- 1) Adequate funding for the Grain Indemnity Fund to assure grain producers of payment for any deficiencies of stored or warehouse receipted grain.
- 2) Efforts to assess the adequacy of funding and, if needed, consider additional funding.
- 3) Collection of the assessment over 12 months to treat all grain sellers fairly, recognizing that this may require the need to raise the amount in the Iowa Grain Indemnity Fund.

GRAIN & FARM SUPPLY

37. GFS11 BIG DATA AND CYBERSECURITY (2021)

WHEREAS, technology and sound data collection are 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

BE IT RESOLVED, that IIC supports:

- 1) That a farmer retains the right to who controls the data and how data is shared.
- 2) That all agreements regarding data control between the farmer and companies controlling the data should be written in understandable terms.
- 3) That the farmer reserves the right to discontinue the relationship with the data holder, while retaining their data, if the farmer so chooses.
- 4) Encouraging members to be hypervigilant in maintaining data protection measures.

38. GFS12 AIR QUALITY BUREAU FUNDING (2019)

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 IIC:

- 1) Supports fair and equitable funding of the Air Quality Bureau.
- 2) Is open to a reasonable, minor source, construction permit fee reflective of permit issuances expenses.
- 3) However, we do not believe an annual permit fee is appropriate.

GRAIN & FARM SUPPLY

39. GFS13 MODERNIZATION OF THE FERTILIZER TAX AND PESTICIDE FEES (2021)

WHEREAS, the Iowa Groundwater Protection Act, enacted in 1987, established nitrogen tonnage 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, that IIC:

- 1) Supports modernizing the Iowa Groundwater Protection Act to meet the current water quality needs of the industry.
- 2) Opposes any legislation which would designate use of these funds for any other purposes other than appropriate water quality projects.

40. GFS14* TRANSPORTATION OF AGRICULTURE INPUTS (2022)

WHEREAS, efficient agricultural production requires distribution of sufficient quantities of vital farming inputs in a safe and timely manner; and

WHEREAS, there is a nationwide shortage of commercial drivers which impacts the ability of agriculture to distribute products and inputs, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, IIC urges the state and federal Departments of Transportation and the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration to sustain a balance in their actions and policies for the safe, timely, and energy-efficient delivery of vital farming inputs. IIC supports programs or policies that recognize the uniqueness of agriculture and allow for reasonable exemptions from certain regulations, while still allowing for the safe and efficient movement of our products.

ENERGY

STATE ENERGY

41. P1 SHRINK FORMULA (2022)

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.

42. P2 MOTOR FUEL QUALITY ASSURANCE AND TAXATION (2022)

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 IIC 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.

43. P3 DELIVERY OF PROPANE (2020)

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

WHEREAS, many propane marketers in Iowa provide 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, IIC supports:

- 1) Propane marketers continuing work with their LIHEAP customers on a reasonable basis and exercise appropriate business judgment on behalf of either the customer or the marketer.
- 2) Supports adopting legislation which would:
 - a. Not eliminate propane marketers' discretion with respect to the customers the propane marketers choose to do business.
 - b. Not dictate the terms and conditions of the business transactions between the propane marketers and their customers.

ELECTRIC

STATE ELECTRIC

44. E1* RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (2022)

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 IIC encourages 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, and other related research.

45. E2 ENERGY EFFICIENCY (2022)

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

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

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; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that IIC:

- 1) Commend and urge full support for programs to inform and advise our member-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.
- 2) Supports only those energy efficiency programs that are cost effective and believes cooperatives should retain local control over energy efficiency programs best serving their member consumers.

46. E3 ASSIGNED ELECTRIC UTILITY SERVICE AREAS (2022)

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

ELECTRIC

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 IIC declares its support for the existing Iowa Assigned Utility Service Area Law.

47. E4 STATE TAXES (2021)

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 IIC:

- 1) opposes the imposition of special or new taxes on 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.
- 2) supports, to the extent that is reasonable, that state or federal government should apply and exempt taxes for similarly situated entities in the same industry.

48. E5* DISASTER ASSISTANCE (2022)

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 IIC supports the appropriation of adequate federal and state dollars to fund the public assistance and mitigation programs to respond to Iowa's disasters.

49. E6* EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT (2020)

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 IIC asks state and federal governments to support fair and equitable treatment of all counties and regions in our country, when dealing with any emissions that may affect the environment.

50. E7* INTERCONNECTION OF DISTRIBUTED GENERATION (2022)

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; and

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

ELECTRIC

WHEREAS, IIC rejects attempts by other entities to establish organizations that claim to be “cooperatives” without adhering to the 7 cooperative principles for any purpose including the aggregation of distributed generation solar installations; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that IIC 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.

51. E8 SAFETY (2022)

WHEREAS, it is important for safety and reliability reason to maintain adequate clearance between overhead electric lines and trees and other structures; and

WHEREAS, electric easements, including written easements and those that are obtained through prescriptive means, often are lacking in specificity concerning an electric utility’s right to cut and trim trees in order to maintain adequate clearances; and

WHEREAS, the utility and the landowners would benefit from a specified minimum clearance area within which the utility is able to cut and trim trees to prevent outages, maintain electric system reliability, and minimize the potential for inadvertent human contact with overhead electric lines; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that IIC supports the adoption of legislation that establishes clear guidance for utilities and landowners related to tree trimming and vegetations management rights in the areas surrounding overhead electric lines.

52. E9* CYBERSECURITY (2022)

WHEREAS, cybersecurity is an important element of the electric grid that electric cooperatives take very seriously. Every day, the electric power industry continuously monitors the electric system and mitigates the effects of electric 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; and

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 electric system; and

WHEREAS, in nearly all situations, electric cooperatives can protect the parts of the electric 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

ELECTRIC

expert operators and cybersecurity representatives to make the needed adjustments to systems and networks to ensure the reliability and security of the electric system; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that IIC opposes duplication of policies at the federal and state levels and cyber policies should consider planning times, costs and reliability of the electric system.

53. E10 ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE (2023)

WHEREAS, technology in the field of electric vehicles and the necessary infrastructure to service, charge and maintain them are developing at a fast pace; and

WHEREAS, the State of Iowa and other government bodies that are attempting to provide guidance to all interested stakeholders should strongly consider negative impacts on consumers if certain limitations or prohibitions are placed on electric cooperatives in the development and or ownership of EV charging station technology; and

WHEREAS, if structured correctly, the State's approach to EV infrastructure policy can provide an opportunity for electric cooperatives to better serve the needs of their member-consumers; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that IIC supports the collaborative efforts undertaken by the Iowa Utilities Board and the Iowa Economic Development Authority so long as the recommendations adhere to our support for incentives over mandates, protection of Iowa's service territory laws, respects property rights of electric utilities as it relates to terms of service and the ability for electric cooperatives to reasonably provide safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible power to all member-consumers.

COMMUNICATION

STATE COMMUNICATIONS

54. TC1 IOWA COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (ICN) (2023)

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 & competitive entry by private companies; and

WHEREAS, there is discussion in the state of Iowa to expand the use of the Iowa Communications Network; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that IIC:

- 1) Opposes the further expansion of such networks including the ICN both as to the authorized users or authorized uses of the network; and
- 2) Encourages public officials to use private networks to satisfy the connectivity needs of education, transportation, health providers and other agencies.

55. TC2 BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT (2021)

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 across industries including lending and agriculture; accessing information, to the development of innovative ideas and inventions; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has directed the Empower Rural Iowa – Connect Committee to make recommendations on broadband deployment across Iowa; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that policies and legislative proposals incent deployment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, state policies to increase broadband deployment should focus on expanding the use of private networks.

AG PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING

STATE AG PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING

56. APP1 UNIFORM STANDARDS (2022)

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 IIC supports 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.

57. APP2 SPECIAL MILK, SCHOOL LUNCH, & FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (2021)

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 IIC:

- 1) Favors 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 whole milk as a beverage and which will enhance the nutritional aspects of these programs; and
- 2) Supports food assistance programs with improved surveillance to prevent abuse; and
- 3) Encourages the installation and use of dairy product vending machines in Iowa schools.

58. APP3 MILK INSPECTION FUNDING (2022)

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.

59. APP4 LABELING (2022)

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 IIC supports and urges the State Department of Agriculture to continue monitoring these products for compliance with labeling laws and the use of the “Real Seal” label.

AG PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING

60. APP5 UNPASTEURIZED MILK SALES (2023)

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest and good health of the people of Iowa to be educated on the risks of consuming of unpasteurized milk; and

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that IIC asks our Secretary of Agriculture to actively enforce the current law regulating the sale of unpasteurized milk for human consumption.

61. APP6 ADDITION OF SOLIDS IN DAIRY PRODUCTS (2022)

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 IIC supports increased minimum standards of total solids in processed fluid milk.

62. APP7 IOWA LIVESTOCK HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (ILHAC) (2021)

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that IIC supports ongoing funding to ILHAC adequate to fund research of new and existing health threats to Iowa's livestock industry.

FARM CREDIT

STATE FARM CREDIT

63.FC1* Fair and Equitable Treatment of Agricultural Lenders (2022)

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.

CREDIT UNION

STATE CREDIT UNION

64. CU1* TAX STATUS OF CREDIT UNIONS (2019)

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 IIC opposes any legislation that would change the current credit union tax status.

65. CU2 CREDIT UNION SERVICES (2019)

WHEREAS, not-for-profit credit unions exist to serve the financial needs of 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 IIC supports legislation that helps credit unions remain contemporary in the financial services marketplace and provide their members with the services they need.

66. CU3 PRIZE-LINKED SAVINGS (2019)

WHEREAS, a 2017 Federal Reserve study found that nearly half of American households do not have enough in savings to cover a \$400 emergency expense; and

WHEREAS, prize-linked savings, which incentivizes the act of saving through raffle-style prizes, has proven to engage individuals in increased savings habits across the country; and

WHEREAS, the average prize-linked savings program participant saves \$2,400; and

WHEREAS, 33 other states already permit prize-linked savings programs; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that IIC supports legalizing prize-linked savings programs in Iowa.

CREDIT UNION

67. CU4 ALLOW COMPENSATION FOR CREDIT UNION DIRECTORS (2022)

WHEREAS, the success of credit unions' cooperative business model starts with a foundation of engaged and capable board members; and

WHEREAS, with the expectations and time commitment of credit union directors being significantly more than years prior, it is increasingly difficult to find good people willing to serve; and

WHEREAS; credit unions are the only cooperatives that are prohibited from compensating directors under Iowa Code, despite the time and value these directors contribute to the credit union; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that IIC supports changing Iowa Code Chapter 533 to provide credit unions the option to compensate directors if they so choose.

ISSUES IN COMMON

FEDERAL ISSUES IN COMMON

68.1 FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE (2021)

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 IIC favors:

- 1) Removal of any trade restrictions which inhibit the free flow of agricultural commodities.
- 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.

69.2 NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION POLICY (2021)

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 IIC 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.

70.3 BASIC RESEARCH (2022)

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 IIC 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.

71.4 COMPETITION AND ANTI-TRUST (2022)

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 IIC 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 IIC 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

72.5 COOPERATIVE TAXATION (2022)

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 IIC 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 IIC opposes the efforts to erode the single tax principle, such as the capitalization of inventory and the imposition of the alternative minimum tax.

73.6 RURAL COOPERATIVE TECHNICAL CENTERS (2022)

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 IIC works with Cooperative Development Services and other appropriate groups to maintain funding for these efforts and to position Iowa as a major player in cooperative development activities.

74.7 CLEAN AIR ACT (2022)

WHEREAS, the federal Clean Air Act is an environmental program developed to protect the quality of our air; 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 IIC works with the government environmental agencies and legislative bodies to educate their understanding of the consequences of such a standard.

75.8 CLIMATE RESILIENCY/GREENHOUSE GAS LEGISLATION AND REGULATION (2020)

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

WHEREAS, the IIC 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 IIC supports the following:

- 1) That any such policies incorporate the fundamentals of existing climate policies eliminating unnecessary regulatory burdens from overlapping policy programs, and
- 2) Assure that such policy is based on accurate, objective peer reviewed science, and
- 3) That production agriculture, such as livestock production is not designated as a “regulated industry” under such policies, and
- 4) Assure that such policies are based on sound cost benefit analysis and do not impose unacceptable economic burdens on consumers, producers or their cooperatives.
- 5) Grandfathering existing land stewardship practices for eligibility to carbon credits.
- 6) Provisions in carbon credit programs that allow fields to continue qualification for carbon sequestration payments when “acts of God” impact a field where recovery practices may have to be done for the field to return to a productive resource.

76.9 INCREASED TRUCK WEIGHTS ON INTERSTATES (2022)

WHEREAS, the grain industry, among others, has continued to see increased trucking demand; and

WHEREAS, Iowa grain handlers depend on the interstate system to move product across the country; and

WHEREAS, recent research indicates that increasing semi weight limits to 91,000 pounds with a sixth axle configuration:

- 1) Increases motorist safety
- 2) Decreases infrastructure wear and tear
- 3) Decreases fuel consumption
- 4) Creates efficiency gains; and

WHEREAS, six-axle 91,000 pound trucks are currently allowed on Iowa’s state and county roads; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that IIC encourages Congress to enact legislation to create truck weight limits on all interstates.

77.10 UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE USE (2019)

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 that:

- 1) IIC resists restrictions on appropriate commercial UAV use with the understanding that the cooperative must have permission of the farmer prior to use.

ISSUES IN COMMON

- 2) Recognizing the potential for emergency situations, electric utilities would not be required to secure permission prior to use of the drone for inspection of line damage or the utility's efforts to provide safe and reliable service to their member-consumers.

78.11 SAFETY REGULATIONS (2021)

WHEREAS, Iowa cooperatives strive to create a safe work environment for all employees through training and implementation of extensive internal safety protocols; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that:

- 1) IIC supports responsible and cost-effective regulatory policies that provide a safe, productive work environment while not hindering economic competitiveness.
- 2) Policies regulating safety management practices for handling highly hazardous chemicals should be appropriate to the overall safety risk and not be excessively onerous, duplicative, or costly to Iowa cooperatives.

79.12 CYBERSECURITY (2022)

WHEREAS, Iowa cooperatives are committed to protecting the security, confidentiality, integrity and availability of protected personal and company information.

BE IT RESOLVED that the development, implementation, and oversight of legislative initiatives addressing data security breaches should be a national approach, recognizing that a state by state approach can be burdensome for entities that operate in numerous states. The proposed policy initiatives should:

- Be practical for business to implement and reasonable in cost;
- Resist expansion beyond reasonably protectable information; and
- Promote consistency in how protected information is defined in various privacy laws.

80.13 MANAGEMENT OF WATERWAY TRANSPORTATION/INFRASTRUCTURE (2023)

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

WHEREAS, alternative transportation systems will impact all transportation costs; and

WHEREAS, IIC supports federal efforts to improve the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers for the transport of agricultural products and inputs to and from the state; and

WHEREAS, the original intent of US Army Corp of Engineers' flood management planning was flood mitigation; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that IIC:

- Urges the Army Corps of Engineers to prioritize flood control and commercial river transportation, as it's written today.
- Urges Congress to authorize appropriations for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to carry out navigation and flood management projects in Iowa and around the country.

ISSUES IN COMMON

- Supports exploring alternative methods of funding if federal monies are unavailable for the necessary improvement of the lock and dam system.

81. 14* LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY INITIATIVES (2023)

Reference State Issues in Common 8* for more details.

82. 15* BIOTECHNOLOGY AND BIOENGINEERED PRODUCTS (2019)

Reference State Issues in Common 11* for more details.

83. 16 PENSION PLAN PREMIUMS (2020)

WHEREAS, many Iowa cooperatives are covered by a defined benefit pension plan; and

WHEREAS, increasing cost pressures on participating cooperatives continue to grow; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that IIC supports:

- 1) Congress adjust funding rules for cooperative and small employer charity (CSEC) plans.
- 2) Adjusting Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) premiums charged by CSEC plans to reflect equivalent associated risk.
- 3) Legislation that reduces or minimizes the cost of implementing and maintaining retirement accounts for employees of cooperatives including legislation such as the Preserving Employee Retirement Savings Act (PERSA).

84. 17 COMPENSATORY TIME OFF (2021)

WHEREAS, federal workers can take compensatory time off instead of overtime for irregular and occasional overtime; and

WHEREAS, agricultural work can vary by season requiring more time and labor during certain times of the year and less during others; and

WHEREAS, some employees would rather have more time off than increased pay; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that IIC supports allowing employers to offer compensatory time off in lieu of paid overtime.

85. 18 GUEST WORKER PROGRAMS (2021)

WHEREAS, rural Iowa needs a steady workforce to effectively produce and process agriculture products; and

WHEREAS, domestic labor shortages have increased the need for legal guest workers; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that IIC:

1. Supports efficient guest worker programs that continue to provide steady labor for Iowa and making those programs more efficient for employers.
2. Opposes legislation that would impose any penalties against employers who unknowingly hire illegal immigrant workers and make it more difficult for employers to hire guest workers.

ISSUES IN COMMON

86.19 VACCINE MANDATES (2022)

WHEREAS, in 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted supply chains and cut the labor force; and

WHEREAS, vaccines have been developed and approved by the FDA, the CDC, and the WHO; and

WHEREAS, vaccinations and medical decisions are personal decisions; and

WHEREAS, Congress has the authority to approve and impose mandates enforced by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, a vaccine mandate will exacerbate an already strained labor force and place an undue burden on employers in maintaining vaccination and testing records; and

WHEREAS, requiring employers to keep records of employee medical history is a privacy issue; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that IIC:

- 1) Recognizes that vaccinations are personal medical decisions and encourages everyone to take all precautions to protect their individual health.
- 2) Opposes putting employers in an enforcement role for a vaccine and testing mandate.
- 3) Supports an exemption to any vaccine mandate for workers in critical industries and occupations such as, but not limited to, essential workers, truck drivers, warehouse operators, and food manufacturers.
- 4) Urges any potential vaccine mandates be passed through Congress and the legislative process and enforced by the proper agencies.

GRAIN & FARM SUPPLY

FEDERAL GRAIN & FARM SUPPLY

87. GFS1 FOOD SAFETY & FARM INPUTS (2022)

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 IIC:

- 1) Encourages cooperatives, both local and regional, to provide maximum assistance to farmers in determining the most economic levels of inputs.
- 2) 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.

88. GFS2 199A(g) COOPERATIVE TAXES (2023)

WHEREAS, the U.S. Treasury Department has created new rules for cooperative tax code 199A(g); and

WHEREAS, new rules would change the original congressional intent amongst stakeholders, duplicating old 199A and decades of precedent; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that IIC opposes a rule change raising taxes on cooperatives and their farmer member-owners.

89. GFS3 TRANSPORTATION OF AG INPUTS (2022)

Reference State Grain & Farm Supply GFS14* for more details.

ENERGY

FEDERAL ENERGY

90. P1 ENERGY FOR AGRICULTURE (2021)

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 IIC supports:

- 1) Alternative sources of fuel developed from agricultural commodities & byproducts.
- 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.

91. P2 PIPELINE DEREGULATIONS (2021)

WHEREAS, most 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 IIC opposes decontrol of pipeline tariffs and adding service surcharges.

92. P3 PREMIUM DIESEL FUEL (2022)

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 IIC seeks minimum definition and labeling requirements for premium grade diesel fuel and enforcement of such labeling requirements.

ELECTRIC

FEDERAL ELECTRIC

93. E1 NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY (2022)

WHEREAS, the IIC 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 available; and

WHEREAS, the Institute supports the electric generation from a diversified portfolio of fuel sources including coal, nuclear, hydro, natural gas, solar, biogas and wind; 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 IIC supports the development and implementation of an energy policy to insure adequate, reliable and economical energy for the future development of this country and its citizens.

94. E2 POWER MARKETING ADMINISTRATIONS (2022)

WHEREAS, energy generated at federal hydroelectric facilities is purchased by several electric cooperative 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, the sale, transfer, or other disposal of the power marketing administrations or the federal power plants and related facilities would:

- 1) Threaten consumer-owned utilities and their customers with uncertainty of supply and significantly higher power rates;
- 2) Undermine the ability of consumer-owned utilities to provide reliable electric service at competitive rates and thereby increase monopoly in the electric utility industry;
- 3) Renege on existing repayment agreements between the United States and federal power users; and
- 4) Eliminate reliable, long term sources of revenues for the U.S. Treasury; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that IIC 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

ELECTRIC

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that IIC 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.

95. E3 RURAL UTILITIES SERVICES (RUS) FINANCING (2021)

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 IIC urges 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.

96. E4 UNIFORM FEMA POLICY ON STORM RECOVERY FUNDING (2023)

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; and

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; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that IIC 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.

97. E5 FEDERAL TAXES (2020)

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

ELECTRIC

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 IIC opposes the imposition of special taxes on 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.

98. E6* RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT (2022)

Reference State Electric E1* for more details.

99. E7* DISASTER ASSISTANCE (2022)

Reference State Electric E5* for more details.

100. E8* EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT (2020)

Reference State Electric E6* for more details.

101. E9* INTERCONNECTION OF DISTRIBUTED GENERATION (2022)

Reference State Electric E7* for more details.

102. E10 EXECUTIVE BRANCH ACTION ON CARBON EMISSIONS (2021)

WHEREAS, the potential for EPA or other Executive Branch agency limiting emissions related to carbon will impact the Rural Electric Cooperatives in their delivery of safe and environmentally responsible electricity in a reliable and affordable manner; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that IIC supports the position of the rural electric cooperatives as they work to ensure that any new policies or compliance plans should minimize to the greatest extent possible any negative or punitive impact on cost and reliability of electricity.

103. E11* CYBERSECURITY (2022)

Reference State Electric E9* for more details.

COMMUNICATION

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS

104. TC1 NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY (2023)

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that IIC supports:

Communication policies which explicitly preserve the ability of rural communication systems to offer quality telecommunications services to their rural customers at reasonable rates and include the following provisions:

- a. 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;
- b. Continue support of the Rural Utility Service (RUS) loan programs at adequate funding levels and staffing levels; and
- c. That the networks necessary for broadband communications in rural America be built, constructed and operated by private industry.
- d. Updated and accurate broadband mapping.

AG PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING

FEDERAL AG PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING

105. APP1 SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS (2021)

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 underfunded or the first to be cut because of federal spending constraints; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that IIC 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.

FARM CREDIT

FEDERAL FARM CREDIT

106. FC1 GSE STATUS (2022)

WHEREAS, IIC believes that 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 IIC opposes 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.

107. FC2 FARM CREDIT SYSTEM (2023)

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 IIC 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 supports improved flexibility of the System to serve the existing and emerging financial needs of farmers, ranchers, cooperatives, small towns and rural America.

108. FC3 PRESERVING THE FARM CREDIT SYSTEM (2022)

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 impacted, 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 that IIC strongly urges the Administration and Congress to take no action which would in any way reduce the ability of the Farm Credit System to serve Agriculture. 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 dilute the farmer ownership and control of the Farm Credit System, and its cooperative structure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that IIC takes every appropriate action to ensure the preservation of Farm Credit System as a dependable and reliable source of credit to agriculture at competitive rates.

109. FC4 FARM CREDIT ACT – COOPERATIVE REQUIREMENTS (2021)

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 IIC supports 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.

110. FC5* FAIR AND EQUITABLE TREATMENT OF AGRICULTURAL LENDERS (2022)

Reference State Farm Credit FC1 for more details.

CREDIT UNION

FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

111. CU1 MEMBER BUSINESS LENDING (2023)

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 IIC supports federal action to lift the cap on member business lending that is currently imposed on credit unions.

112. CU2* TAX STATUS OF CREDIT UNIONS (2019)

Reference State Credit Union CU1 for more details.