

**CONGRESSIONAL-LEGISLATIVE-TAX-TRANSPORTATION-RISK
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

SUBSECTIONS:

C=Congressional (US)
L=Legislative (ID)
T=Tax (ID)
Trans=Transportation
RMgmt=Risk Management

CONGRESSIONAL

Congressional Policy Statement

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports

- Section 179 of the IRS Code dealing with accelerated Depreciation at current levels,
- a reduction in Capital Gains taxes for long-held properties,
- the deferment of capital gains taxes when profits are placed in a qualified retirement plan,
- the development of a Farm and Risk Management Account (FARRM),
- exempting the first three million dollars of estate tax for family farms and businesses,
- the re-licensing of all power generating dams in the northwest,
- planting flexibility currently included in the farm bill and with fair and open trade,
- disaster assistance on an "as needed" basis,
- land exchange between private, state and federal entities on a site specific basis,
- keeping fair market exchange of foreign grain without the use of artificial barriers,
- all levels of government to use sound scientific data when making public health and environmental decisions that could also affect crop viability,
- legal action to enforce existing US laws prohibiting the importation of food products on which chemicals are used that are not registered in the US,
- Farm Credit's Horizons Program

The Idaho Grain Producers Association opposes

- major reductions in USDA farm payment limitations.

Resolution No. C-1 - Investment Tax Credit

The Idaho Grain Producers Association will urge the National Association of Wheat Growers and the National Barley Growers Association to help expedite legislation in which Investment Tax Credit will be reinstated. The Idaho Grain Producers Association will work to maintain the Investment Tax Credit in Idaho.

Resolution No. C-2 - Aberdeen ARS - Barley Research

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports enhanced funding for federal barley research at the USDA/ARS Small Grains Research Program in Aberdeen, Idaho.

Resolution No. C-3 - Guest Workers

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports a workable Guest Worker Program that secures the borders of the United States and provides a legal, affordable, and stable workforce for agriculture.

Resolution No. C-4 - Recently Purchased Land

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports maintaining recently purchased state and county lands on the county tax roles or when receiving payment in lieu of taxes.

Supporting Statement

County's positioned within Indian Reservations need to keep a constant tax base when private lands are acquired by the tribe.

Resolution No. C-5 - 2007 Farm Bill

The Idaho Grain Producers Association will support the farm bill proposals of the national small grains organization (NAWG and NBGA).

LEGISLATIVE

Legislative Policy Statement

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports

- using burning as a tool in crop production and will oppose any legislation that prevents farmers from burning crop residue,
- bringing together all groups that use burning as a management tool,
- all warehouses being under a state licensing program,
- changes in Idaho's trespass law that would give the landowner better protection while putting a bigger burden of proof on the violator,
- tax credits for farmland preservation.

The Idaho Grain Producers Association will work

- to protect farmers from legal actions brought against them based on smoke, dust, and other environmental trespass issues,
- with the Idaho Cattle Association and other groups to resolve issues with the open range law.

The Idaho Grain Producers Association will be

- actively engaged in legislative action regarding all water issues in the state.

The Idaho Grain Producers Association opposes

- new lien laws or changes to current law that are detrimental to grain producers.

Resolution No. L-1 - Voluntary Agriculture Burning & Smoke Management

The Idaho Grain Producers Association encourages the Director of the Department of Agriculture to continue an effective voluntary agriculture burning and smoke management program throughout southern Idaho. If the voluntary management program proves ineffective in the future, IGPA will work with the Director to develop and implement a mandatory system.

Resolution No. L-2 - Legal Protection for Farmers

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports legislation that would require reimbursement of defense expenses to agricultural producers who prevail in any action, claim, or counter action alleging that the agricultural activities are causing harm.

Resolution No L-3 - Moving Depredation Fund to IDOA

The Idaho Grain Producers Association seek legislation and regulations that assign the administration of the Big Game Depredation Fund to the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, with the remaining balance each year in the fund going back to the Idaho Fish and Game Department as provided in the Idaho Code 36-115.

Resolution No L-4 - Animal Damage Payments on Tribal Lands

The Idaho Grain Producers Association will support changes in Fish and Game rules that will allow for animal damage payments to be made from the Fish and Game Depredation account to farmer leaseholders of Tribal Lands.

Resolution No. L-5 - Aquifer

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports aquifer recharge.

Resolution No. L-6 - Water Allocation

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports a solution to the water allocation problem within the state of Idaho.

Supporting Statement

IGPA believes all pumpers who are properly licensed by Idaho Department of Water Resources are part of a class and supports state funded mitigation for those impacted by the water calls.

Resolution No. L-7 - Idaho Quality Assurance Lab

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports the full base funding of the Idaho Quality Assurance Lab (Twin Falls) from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture.

Supporting Statement

As this lab is needed to keep our agricultural products safe to consumers and as the work load varies greatly from year to year, the base salary and base operational costs should be fully funded from general fund through the Idaho State Department of AG of which it is based. This lab has the highest "GLP" (Good Laboratory Practices) rating available. The requirements of audits, licenses, and paper trails make their results eligible as evidence in courts of law.

TAXES

Tax Policy Statement

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports

- the research efforts of the University of Idaho College of Agriculture and encourages the Idaho legislature to adequately fund the College of Agriculture,
- a two-thirds majority to be retained as a requirement to pass a bond levy,
- relieving the burden of property taxes on Idaho farmers,
- the encouragement of the Idaho Wheat Commission to fund the updating of the U of I property tax study.

The Idaho Grain Producers Association opposes

- changes to the production exemption as it now stands,
- changing the homeowner's exemption law that adversely affects grain producers.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Policy Statement

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports

- maintaining the Snake & Columbia River transportation system and facilities,
- deepening and widening the lower Columbia River Channel and Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)
- eliminating bulk grain exports from cargo preference policy requirements,
- uniform truck regulation for the United States, Canada and Mexico,
- amending Idaho truck weight laws to the maximum federal Formula B, therefore providing uniform maximum gross vehicle weights among western states,
- a single tier weight distance tax.

The Idaho Grain Producers Association opposes

- any highway fuel tax or increase in vehicle registration in a fair and equitable way including all vehicles,
- the CANAMEX corridor until the federal government eliminates the current weight disadvantage to Idaho carriers.

Resolution No. Trans-1 - Railroad Access

The Idaho Grain Producers Association (IGPA) will support federal legislation that provides increased competition on U.S. railroads. Such legislation will serve to provide rail-to-rail competition for Idaho's captive rail customers.

Supporting Statement

The IGPA recognized the efforts by the Alliance for Rail Competition that have developed legislation to provide competitive, increased, and enhanced competition for captive rail shippers. Such increased access is important, given the current merger climate that results in fewer railroads in the United States.

Resolution No. Trans-2 - Heavy Hauler Tax

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports increasing the 7500-mile cap on mileage for the federal heavy hauler tax.

Resolution No. Trans-3 - Elimination of Triple Trailers for Increased Truck Weights

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports legislation outlawing triple trailers in Idaho for legislation amending Idaho truck weight laws to the maximum federal Formula B, therefore providing uniform maximum gross vehicle weights among western states.

Resolution No. Trans-4 - Reciprocity Agreements

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports additional reciprocity coverage of farmer carriers delivering their own products across state lines.

Resolution No. Trans-5 - Uniform Truck Weights

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports rescinding the freeze on interstate highway truck weights.

Resolution No. Trans-7 - Fuel Tax Collection

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports the exemption of tax on dyed fuel if the point of fuel tax collection is changed to the 'first point of delivery.

RISK MANAGEMENT**Risk Management Policy Statement**

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports

- the continuation and improvements of federal risk management programs, including crop insurance,
- funding for producers risk management education,
- risk management programs that are available to all growers in Idaho on an equitable basis.

Resolution No. Rmgmt 1 - Animal Damage and APH

The Idaho Grain Producers Association will work to affect changes in RMA policy that will include animal damage when reporting to RMA for APH.

Resolution No. Rmgmt 2 - Crop Insurance by Class

The Idaho Grain Producers Association will work with the USDA Risk Management Agency to have all wheat insurable by class in the Multi Peril Insurance Program.

Resolution No. Rmgmt 3 - Pack Factor

The Idaho Grain Producers Association will work with RMA to consider changes to the 'pack factor' adjustments to more fairly account for farm-stored production at loss adjustments.