

AG #3: Support for Cross Breeding

Whereas: Natural cross breeding is not the same as gene splicing. Therefore be it

Resolved: The Oregon State Grange advocates for improvement of agriculture products as a result of cross breeding.

AG #4: Oppose Passage of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Agreement

Whereas: The 2015 State Session adopted resolution AG #3 opposing non-transparent, non-amendable fast-track trade pacts, which do not allow open debate by our legislative bodies; and

Whereas: No public reviews or debates have been offered to elucidate on the impacts to American and Oregonian concerns regarding the Trans-Pacific Partnership International Trade Agreement; and

Whereas: The Trans-Pacific Partnership allows private corporations to disregard, circumvent and/or challenge laws of sovereign countries, thereby destroying their autonomy and ability to regulate their trade and financial markets; and

Whereas: The TPP if passed will allow international corporations to sue the no longer sovereign nations for “damages,” and even if a lawsuit is unsuccessful, massive court costs would be incurred; and

Whereas: The TPP would give 9,200 foreign firms the right to circumvent our courts and attack the laws we rely on for a clean environment, safe food, and decent jobs; and

Whereas: The TPP would encourage fracking and more outsourcing of American jobs to foreign countries, make medicines more expensive and could destabilize global finance; and

Whereas: In Oregon the TPP would negate laws passed to protect farms and farmers, as well as limit legislation to restore agricultural sovereignty authority to Oregon counties. Therefore be it

Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange oppose the passage of the Transpacific Partnership and direct its lobbyists to actively fight against the passage of this non-transparent international agreement at all state and federal levels.

ED #2: Require Civics Course for High School Diploma

Whereas: Civics is not a required course in high school; and

Whereas: A well-informed populace is important for a well-working government and community. Therefore be it

Resolved: The National Grange should advocate for civics classes to be included in high school graduation requirements suggested by the federal Department of Education.

ED #3: Oregon State Grange "Promise of Oregon" Support

Whereas: This state's children constitute "The Promise of Oregon" (promiseoregon.org) through their potential as thinkers, leaders, and caretakers of their generation and the future; and

Whereas: We believe funding a strong system of public education is the best investment Oregonians can make to strengthen our economy, create thriving communities and improve the quality of life for every Oregonian; and

Whereas: We support a well-rounded curriculum that meets the needs of Oregon's students, including: art, music, physical education, career and technical training and co-curricular activities; and

Whereas: We must ensure that efforts to close the academic achievement gap and supports for students who have been historically underserved are expanded; and

Whereas: Oregon's public schools have experienced a prolonged period of unstable and inadequate funding that has resulted in dire consequences: teacher and staff layoffs, program cuts, unacceptably large class sizes and one of the shortest school years in the country; and

Whereas: The Legislature has made progress and reinvestments in K-12, but that funding momentum is fragile due to looming cost increases related to health care and PERS (Public Employees Retirement System); and

Whereas: Oregon's political leaders have codified an ambitious "40-40-20" goal (40% have a Bachelor's degree or higher, 40% have an Associate's degree or higher, and 20% have at least a high school diploma or equivalent) for our education system to reach by the year 2025, requiring significant financial investment to attain; and

Whereas: The case must be made to Oregon's voters that the Legislature needs to prioritize investments in a full school year for every student in every district and modern, safe school facilities in every community in our state; and

Whereas: School Board members need to help shoulder the responsibility for making the case to Oregon's voters that investments must be made so that every child has the opportunity to become a responsible and productive citizen of our state. Therefore be it

Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange join and support the efforts of "The Promise of Oregon" campaign to ensure that Oregon's lawmakers continue to prioritize investments to improve the educational outcomes for Oregon's greatest natural resource: our children.

EE #1: The Value of Water

Whereas: Quality water is necessary for life, native fish survival, farming of all kinds, many economic and industrial processes, proper functioning of our sewage, drainage, and water treatment facilities, and drinking for people and animals; and

Whereas: All these needs are competing and sometimes incompatible; and

Whereas: With climate change rainfalls and temperatures are changing and are less predictable. Therefore be it

Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange promote that water and the water cycle be managed and protected as a resource that is not limited to power production and emphasize its necessity for life.

FA #1: State Supervisory Powers over Public Lands

Resolved: We petition the U.S. Congress to pass legislation to transfer the ownership of all federally owned lands, except National Parks and military reservations, to the state where the land is located.

FA #2: The U.S. Justice Department is Investigating Climate Skeptics

Whereas: The United States Attorney General, Loretta Lynch, acknowledged the Department of Justice (DOJ) has asked the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to look into whether climate skeptics' denial of the theory humans are causing dangerous climate change merits prosecution for fraud; and

Whereas: The threat of such action to free speech, free inquiry, and debate are central to our Bill of Rights, Amendment 1, which states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise of thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances. Therefore be it

Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange requests that the United States Congress tell the U.S. Attorney General, Loretta Lynch, to concentrate on real crime and not stifle free speech and free inquiry.

FA #3: Stop HR 2546 — Mandatory Gun Owner Liability Insurance or \$10,000 Fine

Whereas: H.R. Resolution #2546 introduced by U.S. Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney mandates all gun owners to purchase liability insurance or face a fine of up to \$10,000.00; and

Whereas: This house resolution #2546 is a direct assault on our Second Amendment – Right to Keep and Bear Arms; and

Whereas: Congresswoman Maloney has received over \$569,000.00 in contributions from the insurance industry; and

Whereas: “The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. A well-regulated militia composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the best and most natural defense of a free country...” – **James Madison**; and

Whereas: “The constitution shall never be construed...to prevent the people of the United States who are peaceable citizens from keeping their own arms.” – **Samuel Adams**; and

Whereas: The best we can hope for concerning the people at large is that they are properly armed.” – **Alexander Hamilton**; and

Whereas: The great object is that every man be armed. Everyone who is able may have a gun.” - **Patrick Henry**; and

Whereas: “The right of the citizen to keep and bear arms has justly been considered as the palladium of the liberties of a republic; since it offers a strong moral check against the usurpation and arbitrary power of rulers.” – **Joseph Story**; and

Whereas: Americans have the right and advantage of being armed – unlike the citizens of other countries whose governments are afraid to trust the people with arms.” – **James Madison**; and

Whereas: “Our safety, our liberty depends upon preserving the Constitution of the United States as our fathers made it inviolate. The people of the United States are the rightful masters of both Congress and the Courts, not to overthrow the Constitution, but to overthrow the men who pervert the Constitution.” – **Abraham Lincoln**. Therefore be it resolved

Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange is opposed to any legislation to require mandatory gun owner liability insurance or possible fine (as a penalty on an uninsured gun owner).

FA #4: Oppose Religious Law Inclusion into Civil Law of US

Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange oppose the addition of any religious law, dogma, or religiously mandated penalties to the civil laws of the United States or any state or territory thereof.

FA#5: Oppose Owyhee Canyonlands Monument

Whereas: The proposed Owyhee Canyonlands Monument would put an additional 2.5 million acres of Eastern Oregon under federal control, including 50 miles of the Owyhee drainage; and

Whereas: An advisory vote taken in Malheur County in March 2016 had a record turnout of voters and a 90% disapproval rate for the proposed Owyhee Canyonlands Monument; and

Whereas: Oregon already has many acres under federal protection and that has raised many issues regarding local control and use. Therefore be it

Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange oppose the creation of the Owyhee Canyonlands Monument. And be it further

Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange oppose the creation of the Owyhee Canyonland Monument by Presidential Executive Order. And be it further

Resolved: That copies of this resolution be sent to Oregon's Senators Wyden and Merkley, Representative Greg Walden, and Oregon Governor Kate Brown.

HW #1: Wapato Facility

Whereas: The loss of mental health services in communities has turned the prison system into one of the state's largest mental health providers; and

Whereas: In 2004, a task force recommended setting up separate treatment units or even a new prison to serve as a mental hospital; and

Whereas: Prisons were never designed as facilities for the mentally ill; and

Whereas: According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, 56 percent of state prisoners and 45 percent of federal prisoners have symptoms or a recent history of mental health problems; and

Whereas: 8 to 19 percent of prisoners have psychiatric disorders that result in significant functional disabilities, and another 15 to 20 percent will require some form of psychiatric intervention during their incarceration; and

Whereas: Our prisons are populated by people in desperate need of caring and sensitive psychiatric care; and

Whereas: Mental health treatment can help some prisoners recover from their illness; and

Whereas: By helping individual prisoners regain health and improve coping skills, mental health treatment promotes safety and order within the prison environment and enhances community safety when prisoners are ultimately released. Therefore, be it

Resolved: The Oregon State Grange go on record to support 14355 North Bybee Lake Court, Portland, Oregon, Wapato Facility, to be considered as a hospital and/or transition facility for the mentally ill, with trained and licensed staff for the care, treatment, and stabilization of the mentally ill.

HW #3: Control Costs of Medicare Drug Benefits (Part D) to Low-Income Beneficiaries

Whereas: Many older Americans struggle to afford basic costs of living, which is often compounded by medical expenses, including the cost of medications; and

Whereas: Susan Noah, Oregon State Grange Master, in her Annual Address at the 2016 Sessions, appealed to the membership stating, "...we have been contacted several times to join with other organizations in opposition to changes to the Medicare system. These include urging the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission to reject proposals to increase patient out-of-pocket costs and co-pays for low-income beneficiaries under the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit (Part D) Currently we have very little policy on the Medicare program in any form, and yet I know that this is a program that touches many of us." Therefore be it

Resolved: Oregon State Grange work with other organizations to urge the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission to reject proposals to increase patient out-of-pocket costs and co-pays for low-income beneficiaries under the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit (Part D).

LE #1: Support for Oregon State Department of Education Matching Bond Program

Whereas: During the 2015 legislative session SB0447 was passed; and

Whereas: SB0447 was passed for the 2015 - 2017 biennium; and

Whereas: There is a long term for state help in upgrading aging educational buildings.

Therefore be it

Resolved: The Oregon State Grange lobby in support of the reauthorization of the Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching Program, the matching-grant program managed by The Department of Education.

LE #3: Emergency Clause

Whereas: The Referendum process is highly valued by the Grange and its members as a citizen control on the actions of the Legislature; and

Whereas: The Grange has a long history of advocating for and supporting the Referendum process; and

Whereas: Oregon Legislators are using the Emergency Clause to circumvent the use of the Referendum process. Therefore be it

Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange hereby reaffirms our support of the Initiative and Referendum process and our belief that the emergency clause is to be used only for true emergencies that cannot wait to go into effect until the 90 days required by statute has passed and that the Oregon State Grange shall support any effort to limit the use of the emergency clause by the Oregon Legislature.

LE #5: Cape Kiwanda Safety

Whereas: The Cape Kiwanda State Recreation Area has become a very popular and dangerous tourist attraction resulting in two deaths in February 2016 and five deaths in 2015; and

Whereas: The current barrier fence is aging and easy to go around or through to the cliffs. The "danger do not go beyond this point" sign is not sufficiently preventing people from going around either; and

Whereas: Local emergency services are being taxed with more frequent needs for rescues and recoveries by individuals who are not realizing the severity of the danger imminent at Cape Kiwanda. Therefore be it

Resolved: That we support a new or extended fence, barrier or blockade that will prevent people from going around to the dangerous points on Cape Kiwanda which will save lives and protect this beautiful and natural resource, that signage at Cape Kiwanda State Recreation Area more appropriately reflect the significant dangers of the cliffs including a memorial for those who have lost their lives on the cape, and that information published on the Oregon State Parks website and other travel websites about Cape Kiwanda include appropriate safety warnings.

LE #6: Minimum Wage

Whereas: The minimum wage has historically been an entry level wage; and

Whereas: A high minimum wage, such as adopted by the 2016 Oregon Legislature, will reduce the employability of the young person just entering the workforce; and

Whereas: A high minimum wage will encourage and incentivize employers to use technology and machines to replace employees as a cost savings mechanism; and

Whereas: One of the principles of economics is that the consumer (the market) is far smarter in setting prices than a small group of individuals such as legislative bodies; and

Whereas: The undefined and vague term "living wage" has little to do with a minimum wage as entry level positions are not normally taken by family breadwinners, except in periods of economic stagnation; and

Whereas: The Oregon Legislature deemed the passage of SB 1532 an emergency, which prevented the citizens of Oregon from exercising their oversight of the legislative process. Therefore be it

Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange oppose any further increases in the minimum wage until these increases have been in effect for a minimum of three years.
And be it further

Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange Legislative Committee prepare a report to the delegates on the economic impact of HB 1532 no later than 2020, which will include the labor participation rate, the youth labor participation rate, rate of growth in the economy in the different regions of the state and other information to allow the delegates to revisit this issue with facts and information.

LE#7: Opposition to Sales Taxes

Whereas: The Oregon State Grange has had a policy against sales taxes. The proposed Gross Receipt Sales taxes is targeted at a segment of Oregon businesses with gross sales at \$25 million; and

Whereas: This tax may reduce a firm's profitability by taxing pre-profit sales; and

Whereas: Some businesses (such as farms, fuel, and grocery businesses) rely on large sales volumes and low margins. They will be unfairly taxed. Therefore be it

Resolved: The Oregon State Grange is against all taxes based on sales of products or services.

NR #1: Protect Livelihood from Wolves

Whereas: Farmers and ranchers cannot protect their livelihood from damage done by wolves. Therefore be it

Resolved: The Oregon State Grange supports policy that a farmer or rancher may shoot a wolf if it is chasing, biting or harassing the livestock (cow, sheep, horse, etc.) or any domestic pet such as dog or cat.

NR #2: Delisting Wolves

Whereas: The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has delisted the wolves in Eastern Oregon; and

Whereas: The Oregon State Grange understands the ODFW is helping the agriculture community. Therefore be it

Resolved: The Oregon State Grange supports the ODFW policy delisting the wolves.

NR #3: Economic Impact to Eastern Oregon

Whereas: In some areas of Eastern Oregon, farmers are having significant economic decline due to coyotes and wolves invading their ranches/farms. Therefore be it

Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange policy support allowing farmers/ranchers to be able to shoot a coyote/wolf that is seen chasing, biting, harassing, or harming their farm/ranch animals. And be it further

Resolved: A coyote/wolf seen within 500 feet of a farmer/rancher dwelling may be shot.

TR #1: Speed Limits in Oregon

Whereas: You have vehicles traveling at one posted speed, and commercial trucks at another speed. This creates vehicles dangerously trying to pass slower moving trucks or vehicles towing; and

Whereas: You now have 2 (two) different speed limits posted; this creates possible traffic hazards; and

Whereas: Making the posted speed limits the same would help with the flow of traffic. Therefore be it

Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange lobby ODOT to consider posting the same maximum speed limits on our highways for all vehicles, where appropriate.

UT #2: 2016 Oregon Energy Bill (House Bill 4036)

Whereas: House Bill 4036 has been approved by the Oregon House of Representatives and is currently headed for the Oregon State Senate. A key component of this bill requires that 50% of the utility customers' loads to be served by renewable energy by 2040; and

Whereas: House Bill 4036 will force Oregonians to purchase expensive less reliable renewable energy generating capacity; and

Whereas: Oregon and the Pacific Northwest have access to one of the most cost-effective, pollution-free sources of energy in the country, hydro-electric, which is not considered renewable power in Oregon; and

Whereas: The Public Utility Commission has tried to voice its concerns about House Bill 4036 and has been muzzled by the Governor's office. Therefore be it

Resolved: Hydro-electric power should be recognized as a renewable energy source in the state of Oregon, as our bordering states do. And be it further

Resolved: The Public Utility Commission must have significant input in Oregon energy planning.

VT #1: Lottery Funds

Whereas: Current Oregon State Grange policy supports 2% of lottery funds be designated and made available to the not-for-profit organizations that serve Veterans; and

Whereas: Initiative petition is currently being circulated that asks that 5% of lottery funds be distributed to finance services to Oregon Veterans; and

Whereas: The Oregon State Grange cannot support legislation asking for 5% if current Grange policy has a limit of 2%. Therefore be it

Resolved: That Oregon State Grange policy supports dedicating a portion of Oregon Lottery monies to fund Oregon Veterans programs and or services.