

## **AG #5: Active Support for Ending Neonicotinoid Use by General Public**

- Whereas: At least one of every three bites of our food is because of pollination services provided by honey bees, native bees, and other pollinators; and
- Whereas: The economic benefit from pollination services to Oregon agriculture is more than \$600 million annually; and
- Whereas: 85% of the plants we see around us are pollinated by insects, including trees, shrubs and other flowering plants in our landscapes; and
- Whereas: The Oregon State Grange recognizes the critical importance of pollinator species for our agriculture, economy, and ecosystem, and supports policies that ensure healthy pollinator species; and
- Whereas: Five of the seven neonicotinoids are among the most widely sold pesticides in the US and are the active ingredients in common garden and lawn products in retail outlets and garden centers: Imidacloprid, Thiamethoxam, Clothianidin, Acetamiprid, and Dinotefuran; and
- Whereas: Neonicotinoids are systemic pesticides, which means the insecticide is incorporated into every part of a plant and cannot be washed off; and
- Whereas: Pollen and nectar of treated plants are toxic to bees and other pollinators. Studies have found neonicotinoids in beeswax and propolis inside honey bee hives, affecting subsequent generations; and
- Whereas: Studies show that even sub-lethal doses of neonicotinoids have short- and long- term impacts on bees and other pollinators; bird populations are declining as a result of exposure to neonicotinoids; and
- Whereas: Neonicotinoids are extremely persistent and can remain active in soil and water for up to a decade; and
- Whereas: Applications of neonicotinoids to lawns, gardens and trees result in neonicotinoids entering creeks and wetlands through runoff, leaching, and drift. Neonicotinoids are being found in our nations' waterways and drinking water. Therefore be it
- Resolved: Neonicotinoids be available only to certified and licensed applicators.

### **ED #1: Textbook 'Get Oregonized' for Oregon Classrooms**

- Whereas: The textbook '**Get Oregonized**' has been continually updated and is available through the Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom (AIRC) Foundation at Oregon State University. Therefore be it
- Resolved: The Oregon State Grange endorses textbooks in our public schools that present agricultural practices realistically and honestly. And be it further
- Resolved: The Oregon State Grange endorses the book entitled '**Get Oregonized**' as such a textbook. And be it further
- Resolved: The Oregon State Grange Education Committee encourages local Granges to work with their local schools to get '**Get Oregonized**' adopted as a textbook and develop guidelines/talking points for local Granges to use to accomplish this goal.

## **ED #2: Resolution Opposing Common Core State Standards**

- Whereas: The copyrighted (and therefore practically unchangeable) Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are a set of controversial top-down K-12 academic standards that were promulgated by wealthy private interests without research-based evidence of validity and are developmentally inappropriate in the lowest grades; and
- Whereas: As a means of avoiding the U.S. Constitution's 10th Amendment prohibition against federal meddling in state education policy, two unaccountable private trade associations (the National Governors Association [NGA] and the Council of Chief State School Officers [CCSSO]) have received millions of dollars in funding from the Gates Foundation and others to create the CCSS; and
- Whereas: The U.S. Department of Education improperly pressured state legislatures into adopting the Common Core State Standards and high-stakes standardized testing as a condition of competing for federal Race to the Top (RTTT) stimulus funds that should have been based on need; and
- Whereas: As a result of the Oregon State Board of Education's adoption of the Common Core State Standards on October 28, 2010; and the Governor of Oregon is the Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State of Oregon; and
- Whereas: This adoption effectively transfers control over public school curriculum from locally elected school boards to the unaccountable corporate interests that control the CCSS and who stand to profit substantially; and
- Whereas: The Oregon State Constitution also calls for public education to be controlled by the State of Oregon through our Governor in her/his role as Superintendent of Public Instruction; and
- Whereas: Implementation of CCSS will cost local school districts hundreds of millions of dollars to pay for standardized computer-based tests, new technology, new curricula and teacher training at a time when Oregon is already insufficiently funding K-12 basic education without proven benefit to students; and
- Whereas: Some states have already withdrawn from CCSS. Therefore be it
- Resolved: Oregon State Grange will lobby the Governor of Oregon to withdraw from the CCSS and keep K-12 education student-centered and accountable to the people of the State of Oregon.

## **ED #3: High Stakes Testing**

- Whereas: Our nation's future well-being relies on a high-quality public education system that prepares all students for college, careers, citizenship and lifelong learning, and strengthens the nation's social and economic well-being; and
- Whereas: Our nation's school systems have been spending growing amounts of time, money and energy on high-stakes standardized testing, in which student performance on standardized tests is used to make major decisions affecting individual students, educators and schools; and
- Whereas: The overreliance on high-stakes standardized testing in state and federal accountability systems is undermining educational quality and equity in U.S. public schools by hampering educators' efforts to focus on the broad range of learning experiences that promote the innovation, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, communication, critical thinking and deep subject-matter knowledge that will allow students to thrive in democracy and an increasingly global society and economy; and

- Whereas: It is widely recognized that standardized testing is an inadequate and often unreliable measure of both student learning and educator effectiveness; and
- Whereas: The over-emphasis on standardized testing has caused considerable collateral damage in too many schools, including narrowing the curriculum, teaching to the test, reducing love of learning, pushing students out of school, driving excellent teachers out of the profession and undermining school climate; and
- Whereas: High-stakes standardized testing has negative effects for students from all backgrounds, and especially for low-income students, English language learners, children of color, and those with disabilities; and
- Whereas: The culture and structure of the systems in which students learn must change in order to foster engaging school experiences that promote joy in learning, depth of thought and breadth of knowledge for students. Therefore be it
- Resolved: The Oregon State Grange calls on the governor, state legislature and state education boards and administrators to reexamine public school accountability systems in this state and to develop a system based on multiple forms of assessment that do not require extensive standardized testing, more accurately reflect the broad range of student learning, and are used to support students and improve schools. And be it further
- Resolved: The Oregon State Grange petition the National Grange to lobby the U.S. Congress and administration to overhaul the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (currently known as the "Every Child Succeeds Act"), reduce the testing mandates, promote multiple forms of evidence of student learning and school quality in accountability, and not mandate any fixed role for the use of student test scores in evaluating educators.

#### **ED #4: Support for the Oregon FFA Association and Agricultural Education**

- Whereas: The Oregon State Grange has long supported the FFA program in Oregon and agricultural education in our public schools; and
- Whereas: Subordinate/Community Granges in Oregon have long supported FFA programs; and
- Whereas: The voters of Oregon in 2016 voted to support vocational education; and
- Whereas: HB 2382 and SB 230 currently in the Oregon Legislature reestablish state funding for the Oregon FFA Association and agricultural education in Oregon schools, which had been completely removed from the state budget since 2011; and
- Whereas: The FFA programs in Oregon high schools provide opportunities for leadership development and personal growth for students not otherwise served by traditional education; and
- Whereas: Agriculture is still one of Oregon's primary industries and many branches of this industry are unable to fill needed positions with qualified employees. Therefore be it
- Resolved: The Legislature continue funding the FFA Association and vocational agriculture programs. And be it further
- Resolved: The Oregon State Grange lobby the Oregon Legislature to include state funding for the Oregon FFA Association and agricultural education in Oregon schools.

#### **ED #8: Saving the Criterion School Campaign**

- Whereas: A founding principal of the Grange was educational opportunities for farmers and farm families; and

- Whereas: The Grange Declaration of Purposes states in part that “We shall advance the cause of education by all just means within our power”; and
- Whereas: Our state’s future well-being relies on a high -quality public education system that prepares all students for college, careers, citizenship and lifelong learning and strengthens the nation’s social and economic well-being; and
- Whereas: The Criterion Schoolhouse was selected to be moved 200 miles from Maupin, Oregon to the Oregon State Fairgrounds during our nation’s bicentennial celebration in 1976, to pay tribute to Oregon public schools; and
- Whereas: The Criterion Schoolhouse has been visited by thousands of fairgoers each year; and
- Whereas: The roof of the Criterion Schoolhouse began to leak last summer causing damage to the ceiling and the floor; and
- Whereas: The Criterion Schoolhouse is in need of lead paint removal/repainting both inside and out, the ADA ramp replaced, as well as the school bell refurbished; and
- Whereas: The Oregon Retired Educators Association (OREA) has provided volunteers over the years to host visitors to the Criterion Schoolhouse; and
- Whereas: The OREA has created the Save the Criterion Schoolhouse Campaign to raise money to not only repair this building but also to create a foundation to sustain and enhance this symbol of lifelong learning for the future. Therefore be it
- Resolved: The Oregon State Grange endorses the efforts of the Oregon Retired Educators Association (OREA) to repair the Criterion Schoolhouse and sustain this building as a symbol of and tribute to Oregon public education.

## **EE #2: Support for Increased Aluminum Recycling**

- Whereas: The smelting of bauxite into new aluminum requires large amounts of electrical energy; and
- Whereas: Melting of scrap aluminum for the purpose of making it into new products can be done using 95% less energy; and
- Whereas: Currently only 31% of American aluminum is recycled as compared to 98.2% in Brazil; and
- Whereas: Melting of scrap aluminum doesn’t have to be done with electricity, but can be done with a number of other heat sources; and
- Whereas: The ability to select from a number of heat sources allows recyclers to use the energy most readily available at their location. Therefore be it
- Resolved: The Oregon State Grange encourages any legislation that would increase aluminum recycling. And be it further
- Resolved: If adopted by the Oregon State Grange, this resolution will be forwarded to the National Grange.

## **FiA #1: Opposition to SB 181 and Changes to Tax Exempt Status**

- Whereas: The 2017 Oregon Legislative Assembly created SB 181; and
- Whereas: SB 181 would cause every non-profit organization in Oregon to make an annual report to the respective county assessor; and

- Whereas: If one small mistake were made, SB 181 could cost the non-profit organization thousands of dollars; and
- Whereas: Non-profit organizations have provided a service to many communities throughout Oregon; and
- Whereas: Non-profit organizations perform charitable acts helping many people; and
- Whereas: Non-profit organizations are helping community organizations; and
- Whereas: Non-profit organizations help volunteer first responders. Therefore be it
- Resolved: The Oregon State Grange urges the 2017 Legislature to reject SB 181. And be it further
- Resolved: The Oregon State Grange opposes changes to or removal of tax exempt status of fraternal, charitable, and religious non-profit organizations.

### **HW #2: Senior Health Care in Oregon**

- Whereas: Wallowa County has a large population of senior citizens aged 65 years or older; and
- Whereas: In 2016, the Governor of Oregon designated Wallowa County a healthcare shortage area because of the high number of residents aged 65 years or older; and
- Whereas: Wallowa County physicians and other healthcare providers are not specialized in gerontology, the specific medical specialty of caring for aging populations; and
- Whereas: Senior citizens frequently return to Wallowa County for rehabilitation after treatment at medical centers and other specialized health facilities, regardless of whether more intensive rehabilitative services that are necessary to their successful rehabilitation, such as speech pathology, are available; and
- Whereas: The leading causes of death in Wallowa County include heart disease, cancer, and chronic lower respiratory disease (such as influenza and pneumonia in the elderly); and
- Whereas: Many Wallowa County senior citizens are at-risk with low fixed incomes and some senior citizens are not insured by outpatient Medicare Part B; and
- Whereas: Inexpensive, senior-focused transportation services such as Community Connections buses are available, but many Wallowa County senior citizens are not aware of the availability of these services or do not take advantage of these services; and
- Whereas: Many Wallowa County senior citizens face financial, nutritional and mobility barriers resulting in impaired health status, social isolation and significantly reduced quality of life. Therefore be it
- Resolved: The Oregon State Grange will advocate for legislation supporting the at-risk and disadvantaged senior citizen population of Oregon rural counties.

### **LE #1: Prohibition of Gerrymandered Political Districts**

- Whereas: It has been a common practice for political parties, when they are in power, to manipulate the boundaries of political districts to their advantage, often through the creation of very complex and illogical shapes on the map; and
- Whereas: This gerrymandering practice often creates an electoral result that differs significantly from the population distribution of political parties in the state or nation as a whole; and
- Whereas: Manipulation of our electoral system by any party is a disservice to our citizens, who are better served by fair electoral competition based on issues and ideas. Therefore be it

Resolved: The Oregon State Grange supports legislation at all levels that require political district boundaries be drawn by a non-partisan commission with the goal of having simple boundaries representative of the population upon which they are drawn.

#### **TR #1: I-5 Donald/Aurora Exit**

Whereas: Exit 278 off of I-5, also referred to as the Donald/Aurora exit, has several truck stops located on both the east and west side of the interstate; and

Whereas: Often both north bound and south bound exiting traffic backs up on to I-5, causing a traffic hazard for those traveling in the right lane of I-5; and

Whereas: It is difficult to make left turns at the bottom of the off ramps on to Ehlen Road or from Ehlen Road onto the on ramps, causing these backups. Therefore be it

Resolved: The Oregon State Grange urges ODOT, Mid-Willamette Valley Area Transportation Commission and Marion County to fund and implement project #19062 – The Donald/Aurora Interchange on I-5 exit 278.

#### **UT #4: Oregon State Grange Energy Policy**

Resolved: The 2017 Session Utilities Committee approves the following to be added to the Oregon State Grange Energy Policy:

- Develop an energy policy to promote the economic and efficient use of our natural resources to produce energy.
- Develop all energy sources that are feasible using proven technology.

#### **VT #1: Lottery Funds for Veterans**

Whereas: The citizens of Oregon passed Proposition 96 in the 2016 General Election by 84% to provide additional funding through 1.5% of the Oregon Lottery revenue for the Oregon veterans; and

Whereas: Oregon Governor Kate Brown has proposed cutting the 2017-19 Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs budget by \$10 million dollars less than the current budget; this in contradiction of the intent of the citizens. Therefore be it

Resolved: The Oregon State Grange opposes any reduction in the funding of the Oregon Department of Veteran Affairs from Oregon's General Fund and supports the addition of the 1.5% Oregon Lottery Funds to be used for the benefit of our veterans.