

# Resolutions Adopted at the 2018 State Grange Convention that Set Legislative Policy

## AG #2: In Favor of Improved Ground Squirrel Control

- Whereas: Agriculture is an essential enterprise in Oregon, and produces billions of dollars' worth of agricultural commodities each year; and
- Whereas: Several million acres of hay, grain crops, and pasture contribute significantly to this agricultural production; and
- Whereas: Ground squirrels and other rodents cause crop losses of up to \$100 per acre in infested areas -- totaling millions of dollars in damage each year in Oregon; and
- Whereas: Effective control methods available in the past have been banned for environmental and safety reasons; and
- Whereas: Currently available control methods are labor intensive and expensive with costs reaching \$65 per treated acre. Therefore be it
- Resolved: The Oregon State Grange encourages research by Oregon State University in cooperation with OSU Extension Service to develop highly-effective, low-cost technologies to control ground squirrels and other damaging rodents in Oregon farmland.

## AG #3: Ending the Use of Dicamba in State of Oregon

- Whereas: Farmers officially reported dicamba drift damaged 2.5 million acres of soybeans alone by July 2017, rising to over 3.5 million acres in 16 states by August, and dicamba injury complaints had topped 2,610 in 24 states in September 2017; and
- Whereas: Many other crops were also damaged, including those grown in conventional and organic farm operations, home vegetable gardens, fruit, and nut trees; and
- Whereas: Nearby flowering wild plants, including centuries-old oak trees, are also affected, depriving pollinators of nectar and pollen resources, and impacting hundreds of beneficial species that live in these plants; and
- Whereas: Scientists have confirmed through independent research that volatility, or vapor drift, is one of the major causes of dicamba drift injury, with the pesticide's ability to volatilize hours or even days later, depending on local weather conditions; and
- Whereas: Dicamba became a restricted use pesticide, available only to trained and licensed applicators, in October 2017; and
- Whereas: A number of states have already prohibited the application of, or have implemented a moratorium on, the use of the dicamba, such as Arkansas and Missouri, and other states are considering such action; and
- Whereas: Application of dicamba by even a *certified applicator* does little to reduce the risk of harm from unintended drift onto a non-intended target field. Therefore be it

- Resolved: The Oregon State Grange recognizes the grave risk dicamba poses to Oregon's valuable agriculture, especially vineyards, and the risk to farmers' livelihoods from dicamba applications. And be it further
- Resolved: The Oregon State Grange supports a moratorium on dicamba use in the state of Oregon to prevent use by farmers combatting glyphosate-resistant weeds. And be it further
- Resolved: The Oregon State Grange will actively support legislation to enable the Oregon state legislature to pass such a moratorium.

#### **AG #4: Protect Farm Workers from Pesticide Drift**

- Whereas: Nearly two million United States agricultural workers are potentially exposed to pesticides; and
- Whereas: Health effects of pesticide exposure include acute symptoms, ranging from mild skin irritation to seizures, and chronic effects, such as cancer, neurological problems, and respiratory illness, and pesticide exposure can cause death; and
- Whereas: A 2011 study published by NIOSH and the Centers for Disease Control found that agricultural workers and residents in agricultural regions had the highest rate of poisoning from pesticide drift exposure; and
- Whereas: the University of Washington measured drift from tower sprayers and air blast sprayers treating fruit orchards and found pesticides drifted 170 feet from both types of sprayers; and
- Whereas: Because workers and their families often live in agricultural labor housing that are constructed and maintained in such a way as to be unable to prevent pesticide vapors from entering living spaces and are often placed in or immediately adjacent to orchards and row crops routinely sprayed with pesticides throughout the growing season, spray drift and take-home exposure can negatively impact family members, including children and others, even with low-level exposure over a period of time; and
- Whereas: Children are more vulnerable to negative health impacts, including birth defects, learning disabilities, neurological impairment and cancer, from pesticide exposure because of their small size, developing organs and inability to process and eliminate toxic chemicals compared to adults; and
- Whereas: The US Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Clean Water Act (CWA) require significantly large pesticide buffers (60-300ft.) to protect natural resources, and by court order, Oregon's endangered salmon and trout are protected from some agricultural pesticides by a 300 ft. no-spray buffer;
- Whereas: Farm workers do not benefit from the ESA or the CWA and must rely on the Worker Protection Standard as the only regulation protecting farm workers from pesticide drift and residues; and
- Whereas: Neither the federal nor Oregon's Worker Protection Standard require protective no-spray buffers around the buildings housing farm workers and their families; and
- Whereas: Oregon law established a buffer zone adjacent to dwellings and schools for forestry aerial pesticide sprays due to evidence of drift in rural communities [ORS 527.672]; and

Whereas: In 2017, after confirming that pesticide poisoning incidents had been caused by pesticide drift, the State of California adopted laws prohibiting pesticide applications on fields within a quarter-mile of schools (1,320ft.) and established additional restrictions on fumigant pesticides, and out of concern that these same pesticides and fumigants are used in Oregon; and

Whereas: Agricultural employers have the responsibility to minimize pesticide drift and residues in labor housing because farm workers and their families live, sleep, eat and play in these areas every day during growing and harvest seasons; and

Whereas: Agricultural workers deserve safe working conditions and respectful treatment. Therefore be it

Resolved: The Oregon State Grange encourages farmers to voluntarily separate agricultural labor housing areas from pesticide spray operations by establishing a 300ft. minimum no-spray buffer to protect farm workers and their families. And be it further

Resolved: The Oregon State Grange will support proposals to adopt rules that separate farm worker housing areas from agricultural pesticide applications by 300ft. minimum in the State of Oregon.

### **AG #5: Regenerative Agricultural Standards**

Whereas: The Oregon State Grange recognizes and acknowledges our agricultural history and heritage and the critical importance of being good stewards of the land and the creatures upon it; and

Whereas: Historic records reflect how farmers and ranchers have battled storms and droughts for decades, though the scientific community now reports that climate change poses an even greater threat to agriculture, rural economies, and the nation's food supply; and

Whereas: Soil is a climate ally, holding more carbon than the atmosphere and all vegetation combined; and

Whereas: Regenerative agriculture recognizes pollinator health is critical for the success of every farm operation and encourages the planting of pollinator hedgerows, diversification of bee forage and the reduction or elimination of on-farm pesticide use; and

Whereas: Research conducted by the Marin Carbon Project found that applying half of an inch of compost to grazed rangeland yields a 40-70% gain in forage production while improving water holding capacity and sequestering one ton of carbon per hectare per year; and

Whereas: Regenerative agriculture promotes practices that increase soil carbon which feeds a diversity of soil life, which in turn feeds us all; and

Whereas: Soil carbon is the key driver for nutritional status of plants and stabilizes soil moisture holding capacity, frequently the most limiting factor for production and profit; and

Whereas: Regenerative agriculture practices such as planting a variety of cover crops, livestock management and reducing tillage without herbicide applications will increase soil carbon and improve the biological activity of the soil and therefore the capacity of a farm to produce greater yields with less inputs. Therefore be it

- Resolved: The Oregon State Grange will raise awareness about the benefits of regenerative agriculture and encourage implementation of practices to minimize on-farm inputs while building capacity for a farm operation's future productivity. And be it further
- Resolved: That regenerative agriculture be recognized as a renewable method of farming that builds a farm's capacity each successive year. And be it further
- Resolved: The Oregon State Grange supports the passage of policies that will encourage farmers to implement practices that follow regenerative agriculture standards.

### **AG #6: Support for Seed Savers**

- Whereas: It has been estimated that the United States has lost up to 94% of vegetable seed varieties in the 20th century; and
- Whereas: The heirloom seeds that our grandparents once saved have largely been lost; and
- Whereas: Because of Oregon's diverse climate and growing conditions, farmers and gardeners grow a wide variety of vegetable crops to support a healthy food system; and
- Whereas: Seed saving is fundamental to protecting our food traditions, food security, and independence; and
- Whereas: Oregon has one of the best climate conditions in the country for growing and saving seeds; and
- Whereas: Oregon State Grange believes that preserving heirloom seeds that have been saved for generations should be a priority; and
- Whereas: Oregon State Grange wants to support those who share and save seeds adapted to community gardens throughout our state. Therefore be it
- Resolved: The Oregon State Grange will support local efforts to safeguard the genetic diversity within heirloom plant varieties and encourage the growing, preservation, and distribution of these varieties throughout the state.

### **AG #7: Opposing Re-introduction of Grizzly Bears**

- Whereas: Grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) are notorious for their size and strength, will inhabit a home range of 60 miles. While omnivores, they are aggressive, apex predators known to feed on orchard crops, sheep, and cattle and for their ferocious attacks on humans, and;
- Whereas: The National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are developing plans to re-introduce grizzly bears in the North Cascade National Park of Washington state in an area with livestock grazing, hiking, and camping; and
- Whereas: The residents near the proposed release areas are very concerned about predation from grizzlies in addition to the cougar and expanding wolf populations; and
- Whereas: Grizzlies reproduce at a slower rate than wolves, they would still be capable of eventually spreading to the mountain areas of Oregon, becoming a danger to orchardists, livestock producers, and outdoor enthusiasts in this state. Therefore be it

Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange opposes efforts to re-introduce grizzly bears into areas with established and significant human activity.

### **ED#1: Length of School Year**

Whereas: Oregon has one of the shortest school years in the nation: 165 days vs 180 days national average; Oregon students lose one year of instruction time compared to other students in the nation, and;

Whereas: By third grade Oregon students average one quarter behind others in the nation. In 2005/06 Oregon rated 87% and in 2013 the scores were 66%, a 20% drop--based on standard reading scores. Therefore be it

Resolved: Oregon State Grange supports legislation increasing the school year to at least 180 days per year.

### **EE #2: Require the Use of Biodegradable Products**

Whereas: Plastic pollution in our waterways, oceans, and lands has harmful effects that we are only now coming to fully understand; and

Whereas: Worldwide Plastic Production has increased an average of 9% per year since 1950 with more than 335 metric tons produced in 2016 – substantially above the worldwide production of chicken, pork, and beef combined, and a little less than the annual US production of corn; and

Whereas: Plastic pollution has been shown to have very harmful effects on many species, particularly sea turtles, seabirds, whales, and other animals that eat plastic pollution they mistake for food; and

Whereas: Many petroleum-based plastics do not biodegrade and may take 10 to 1000 years to breakdown; and

Whereas: In the United States alone over 500 million plastic drinking straws and 275 million plastic bags are discarded each day; and

Whereas: There are many plastics, including PLA and PHA plastics, made from agricultural products that do easily biodegrade and would greatly reduce the harmful effects and duration of plastic pollution. Therefore be it

Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange encourages any legislation that would require that single-use and short-life plastic products and plastic packaging be manufactured using biodegradable products that will completely degrade within three years, if exposed in a biologically active environment. And be it further

Resolved: That this resolution be forwarded to the National Grange.

### **EE #3: Environment & Ecology Section of the OSG Legislative Policy Book**

Resolved: That these policies be reaffirmed:

#### **Recycling**

The Oregon State Grange supports legislation that would ban disposable polystyrene food and drink containers throughout Oregon. LE3.08, EE3.18

The Oregon State Grange supports legislation to ban the use of all unrecyclable plastic bags and plastic packaging wrap in the State of Oregon. EE1.08, EE3.18

### **FA #1: US Postage Stamp for 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Plymouth Colony**

- Whereas: The United States Postal Service issues approximately 150 different commemorative postage stamps each year showcasing around 20 different topics and subjects; and
- Whereas: The Plymouth Rock Stamp Club is campaigning to have the US Postal Service to issue one or more stamps commemorating the 400th anniversary of Plymouth Colony, just as it did for Plymouth's 300th and 350th anniversaries; and
- Whereas: The stamp designs are chosen by the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC), which evaluates the public's suggestions and recommends to the Postmaster General those that would be the best fit for a national stamp. Therefore be it
- Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange write a letter to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee supporting a Plymouth 400 Stamp. And be it further
- Resolved: That a copy of this resolution be sent to the National Grange to gather their support.

### **FA #2: Reaffirm 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 which differs significantly from the population distribution of political parties in the state 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; and
- Whereas: The Oregon State Grange approved and adopted this measure in 2017, and we wish to reaffirm and encourage the National Grange to reconsider this important, non-partisan policy for inclusion in National Grange Policy; and
- Whereas: The National Grange Digest Chapter 2, Article 5 Titled: THE GRANGE, NOT PARTISAN, Section 6 states, "We desire a proper equality, and fairness; protection for the weak; restraint upon the strong; in short, justly distributed power. These are American ideals, the very essence of American independence, and to advocate the contrary is unworthy of the sons and daughters of our Republic." Therefore be it
- Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange supports legislation, at all levels requiring political district boundaries are drawn by a non-partisan commission with the goal that these districts have simple boundaries, keeping communities together and representative of the populations upon which they are drawn. And be it further
- Resolved: That if adopted by the Oregon State Grange that this resolution will be forwarded to the National Grange.

### **FA #3: Renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)**

- Whereas: U.S. trade deals for the past 25 years have amounted to preferential treatment for large corporations, instituting rules that skew benefits to economic elites while requiring working families to bear the brunt of such policies; and
- Whereas: In the NAFTA era of 1994 to today, more than 910,000 United States workers have been certified by the United States government through the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program as having lost their jobs directly due to trade; and
- Whereas: The offshoring of manufacturing and service jobs deprives local and state governments of sorely needed revenues, costing communities in myriad ways including jeopardizing the livelihoods of millions of American public servants as well as construction workers whose jobs depend upon infrastructure building, repair and maintenance; and
- Whereas: The nearly 65 percent of American workers that do not have college degrees have been hardest hit by NAFTA job losses and wage cuts, negatively impacting entire communities; and
- Whereas: NAFTA has benefited large agribusiness corporations over family farmers in all three nations, failing to address the problems of price volatility for producers and consumers alike, while damaging livelihoods in rural communities at home and abroad; and
- Whereas: With regards to immigration, NAFTA's failed development model for Mexico has resulted in serious economic stagnation in Mexico, and has decimated rural livelihoods in Mexico, leading to the displacement of more than a million Mexican peasant farmers, resulting in increased immigration from Mexico to the United States of workers in search of real opportunity; and
- Whereas: Promoting economic growth with equity in our lands requires an approach that reforms the entire trade negotiation process to ensure that voices of workers, farmers, small businesses, families, and communities are heard and their interests addressed; and
- Whereas: NAFTA was the first United States trade agreement to include special privileges for investors and the Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) process that make it less risky for employers to relocate jobs offshore while simultaneously threatening democratic policymaking at home and abroad; and
- Whereas: Corporations have used NAFTA's ISDS process to challenge bans on toxic chemicals, the decisions of environmental review panels, court rulings that support access to affordable medicines, and protections for the climate, and corporations have extracted more than \$370,000,000 from governments in NAFTA ISDS cases, while pending NAFTA claims total more than \$50,000,000,000; and
- Whereas: NAFTA's labor and environmental terms were included in unenforceable side agreements, but even more recent agreements' labor and environmental terms included in core texts have also failed to change actual practice because they have not been meaningfully enforced; and
- Whereas: The reality of a renegotiation for NAFTA is an opportunity to fix the fundamental flaws with this model of trade, in the form of strengthening our economy, reducing income inequality, and promoting sustainable growth, not locking in for the long haul more harm of the sorts that our communities have seen and here noted. Therefore be it

Resolved: The Oregon State Grange requests Congress and our trade negotiators to accept a new NAFTA only if it does the following:

- Exclude Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) and other provisions that give foreign companies special litigation rights;
- Institute strong workplace labor and environmental standards with protection for products and natural resources
- Protect consumers, U.S. businesses, farmers, and workers by ending the NAFTA rules that threaten food safety and food labeling;
- Overhaul the NAFTA rules and preemptions establishing specific farm and food policies, including inventory management, strategic food reserves, and import surge protections.

#### **FA #4: Oppose Cuts to FCC Lifeline Program for Low Income Consumers**

Whereas: Lifeline is a federally supported program that provides discounted phone and internet services to low-income Americans; and

Whereas: The Lifeline program was created under the Reagan Administration in 1985 and is paid for by communications companies; and

Whereas: A large percentage of low-income Americans are found in rural areas; and

Whereas: The FCC is currently considering measures to drastically reduce the Lifeline program. Therefore be it

Resolved: That we support the efforts of Oregon Senators Wyden and Merkley and other Senators to oppose measures that would limit or reduce the Lifeline program. And be it further

Resolved: That if approved, this resolution be sent to Senators Wyden and Merkley to show our support for their efforts.

#### **HW #2: Out of Network Ambulance Charges**

Whereas: If you have an accident or a medical emergency, you cannot select an ambulance carrier; and

Whereas: 911 or the Police or the Fire Department call for the ambulance; and

Whereas: The insurance company states, in some situations, that the ambulance is out of your network; and

Whereas: You have to pay 'out of pocket' more than you expect because the ambulance carrier is not in your network. Therefore be it

Resolved: That the National Grange work to change the laws so that all ambulances are within network for all insurance companies covering the region they service.

#### **HW #3: Mental Health Day**

Whereas: The nonprofit Mental Health of America recently ranked Oregon the worst in the United States for accessing help for mental illness; and

- Whereas The stigma of Mental Health is far reaching and difficult to overcome; and
- Whereas: The current wave of laws being enacted is placing barriers to those with mental health problems and making individuals not want to seek help for fear of being stripped of their rights. Therefore be it
- Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange continues to support World Health Organization's (WHO's) World Mental Health Day on October 10<sup>th</sup> of each year to help educate and support education on mental health.

### **LE #1: Mandatory Oregon State Licensing/ID for Service Animals**

- Whereas: Service animals provide a much needed service to those who need them; and
- Whereas: Fake service animals are growing problem as pet owners flout disability rules; and
- Whereas: The Grange has been a long-time supporter for "Dogs for the Deaf"; and
- Whereas: The damage that fake service animals do to the reputation of handlers is serious. These animals break the trust that the public has in service animals. This directly and immediately affects other handlers. Businesses are less likely to treat service animal teams with respect because they have had bad experiences with animals in the past; and
- Whereas: Representatives at The Oregon State Department of Agriculture stated there is nothing they can do to change or help business/people with the fake service animal issues except to tell them the two questions they are allowed to ask the so-called handler until the laws are changed; and
- Whereas: People are taking advantage of the poorly written guidelines to recognize a true service animal. A business owner/person can only ask two questions: (1) Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability? and (2) What work or task has the dog been trained to perform? All a person has to do is lie to get access for their pet anywhere they want to go. While this is illegal, and the person claiming an animal to be a service animal while it is not can face jail time and fines, there are no means for the business owner/person to know or prove or even try to get help enforcing these laws. If a business/person makes the slightest mistake they can easily be sued; and
- Whereas: It has been stated that requiring licensing/ID is infringing on a person with a disability rights of privacy, there is no difference between that and requiring disabled parking permits. Many people with disabled parking permits cannot be identified easily as to their disability but are required to display the permit or be fined; and
- Whereas: To obtain the ability to park in a handicap parking area one must apply for a permit and display said permit, be fined for falsifying a permit, or being in an area where a permit is required to be there and not having one results in steep fines, and misuse of said permit can cause forfeiture of said permit. The same process can be easily adapted to cover service animals; and
- Whereas: A person can go online and pay a fee to get a fraudulent certificate, claiming their animal is a service animal or can buy online service jackets for their animals; and
- Whereas: A business owner/person can be sued if a fake service animal attacks or bites someone, and said business owner cannot do anything to protect themselves besides

taking the word of the animal owner. This is a doubled edge sword for the business owner/person to do anything to protect themselves; and

Whereas: A landlord who does not want to allow pets in their rental properties are forced to if the person claims they have a service animal and there is nothing they can do besides to take the perspective tenant's word for the fact the animal is a service animal. While it is getting harder for people to find rental homes that allow large animals, multiple animals, or animals since cities and municipalities have created dangerous animal breed ordinances, landlords are forced to accept them and this puts the landlord in a liable situation because of this. Therefore be it

Resolved: The Oregon State Grange supports Mandatory Oregon State Licensing/ID for service animals and a copy of this resolution be sent to all the Representatives of the Oregon State Legislature.

### **LE #2: Enact Josephine County GMO Planting Ban**

Whereas: The voters of Josephine County, Oregon passed an initiative petition restricting the planting of genetically engineered crops in May of 2014; and

Whereas: The state legislature passed a prohibition on local control of agriculture after the initiative process was begun in both Jackson and Josephine Counties; and

Whereas: Adjoining Jackson County was excepted from the prohibition on local control where Josephine County was not; and

Whereas: Jackson and Josephine Counties share a watershed and airshed where pollen can easily cross county lines, and

Whereas: Organic agriculture and seed production are a growing part of agriculture in Jackson and Josephine County; and

Whereas: Pollen from genetically engineered crops can pollinate organic seed crops making them un-sellable; and

Whereas: The GMO-crop-free zone designation makes Josephine County a more desirable place for organic seed and food production businesses. Therefore be it

Resolved: The Oregon State Grange ask the Oregon Legislature to change laws to allow Josephine County to restrict planting of genetically engineered crops as approved by County voters in 2014.

### **LE #3 Expanded Bottle Bill**

Whereas: Oregon had the first bottle bill in the US; and

Whereas: The 2017 Oregon Legislature expanded the Oregon Bottle Bill; and

Whereas: The expanded rules left out some individual recyclable containers; and

Whereas: Some of those containers not covered are recyclable and are being found in landfills; and

Whereas: Some of these recyclable containers are found as litter. Therefore be it

Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange request that the Oregon Legislature expand the bottle bill to include personal size containers that are made for wine and other beverages distributed in Oregon.

#### **LE #4: Placement of Solar Power Installations within Oregon**

Whereas: The State of Oregon has absolute control; and

Whereas: The State of Oregon has approval of where a solar installation will go within a county; and

Whereas: The State of Oregon gives county Commissioners the right to negotiate financials to the benefit of the county; and

Whereas: The State does not take into consideration what may happen such as an installation across the road from, or adjacent to a residence; and

Whereas: The counties will lose property tax money from these misplaced installations. Therefore be it

Resolved: To give Oregon cities and counties more control of placement of solar power installation.

#### **LE #5: Health & Welfare Section of the OSG Legislative Policy Book**

Resolved: That this policy be reaffirmed:

##### **Crime, Victims of Crime, Criminal Sentences, and Parole**

The Oregon State Grange supports legislation that would change the law to have charges expunged from the record of a person when the charges are dropped or that person is found innocent of a crime in a court of law at no cost to the defendant.

LE4.08, LE5.18

#### **LE #6: Financial Affairs Section of the OSG Legislative Policy Book**

Resolved: That this policy be reaffirmed:

##### **Taxes – Establishment, Collection, and Distribution**

The Oregon State Grange supports having all increases in public revenue put to a vote in the affected jurisdictions.

LE5.08, LE6.18

#### **LE #7: Federal Affairs Section of the OSG Legislative Policy Book**

Resolved: That this policy be reaffirmed:

##### **Immigration**

The Oregon State Grange is opposed to allowing illegal immigrants access to Oregon Drivers' Licenses.

LE1.08, LE7.18

### **LE #8: Liability Exemption for Small Sales by Non-Profits**

- Whereas: Non-profit organizations attempting to host neighborhood bazaars, craft sales, flea markets and other events must require each individual vendor to provide liability insurance; and
- Whereas: These types of events typically generate extremely small revenue for the sellers, and frequently even less money for the hosting organization, which is usually just trying to encourage a community activity, so the cost of insurance would consume most of the expected income from the sale; and
- Whereas: These events may be little more than collective garage sales, and individual garage sales do not appear to be subject to liability law; and
- Whereas: Individuals who attend and make purchases at a neighborhood bazaar, craft sale, flea market or other such event understand that items sold are 'as is, where is' with no guarantees as to condition, functionality or value, and simply engage in a negotiation to arrive at a price agreeable to buyer and seller; and
- Whereas: Exemptions from liability law do exist and include the Oregon Equine Liability Act, which states in part "It is the policy of the State of Oregon that no person shall be liable for damages sustained by another solely as a result of risks inherent in equine activity, insofar as those risks are, or should be, reasonably obvious, expected or necessary to the person injured"; and
- Whereas: This same reasoning should be applied to the attendees and purchasers at a neighborhood bazaar, craft sale, flea market or other similar event in that they understand they are attending the sales event of their own free will, are aware that items available for purchase are exhibited as is with no guarantees as to condition, functionality or value, and make their own independent decision to purchase based on their own examination and negotiation, thereby willingly and consciously assuming any risk or liability inherent in the purchase. Therefore be it
- Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange policy be that we desire for Granges and other charitable organizations to be exempt from lawsuits arising from accidents within the scope of normal behavior, not due to gross negligence, at community events. And be it further
- Resolved: That vendors and customers be exempt from lawsuits arising from accidents within the scope of normal behavior, not due to gross negligence, at community events.
- Resolved: That upon adoption by the Oregon State Grange this resolution will be sent to Oregon's Governor, Secretary of State, Insurance Commissioner and legislators.

### **LE #9: Remove an Inconsistency in OSG Legislative Policy**

- Whereas: A statement in current Oregon State Grange policy on taxes, FIA #4, bullet point 5, item 2, "Opposes any sales or transaction tax" is inconsistent with other OSG policies that do in fact support specific sales or transaction taxes; and
- Whereas: Examples include TR#4 (we support allocating gas tax monies to specific areas), LE#9 (we support directing 1.2% of lottery proceeds to County Fairs) and EE#7 (we support Oregon's bottle bill, essentially a direct tax on bottled drinks); and

- Whereas: It is elsewhere stated in OSG Legislative policy that "The Oregon State Grange strongly opposes a sales tax," a policy that would be unchanged by passage of this resolution. Therefore be it
- Resolved: that the statement in current Oregon State Grange policy on taxes, FIA #4, bullet point 5, item 2, "Opposes any sales or transaction tax" be eliminated.

### **LE #11: Hayley's Law**

- Whereas: The National, State and Subordinate Granges pledge to protect children; and
- Whereas: Parents, grandparents, guardians or caregivers have the obligation to protect and keep safe a child's everyday life, and the National, State and Subordinate Granges pledge to protect children; and
- Whereas: The statute currently reads that child visitation rights can be removed after a conviction; and
- Whereas: The Department of Human Services (DHS) in Salem, Oregon states it does not have a hard and fast rule to protect children when a parent is cited or arrested for driving under the influence of intoxicants, growing or delivering/distributing of illegal drugs; and
- Whereas: The child or children's welfare is left to the DHS worker only if a complaint or concern has been filed by an officer, detective or parent/guardian; and
- Whereas: The DHS worker, a DHS investigator and possible subsequent court action may then be considered; and
- Whereas: This process can take days or months to resolve; and
- Whereas: Through the process parental rights could result in no change, monitored visitation or their parental rights completely removed; and
- Whereas: ORS 163.575 Endangering The Welfare Of A Minor: (1) A person commits the offense of endangering the welfare of a minor if a person knowingly: (b) Permits a person under 18 years of age to enter or remain in a place where unlawful activity involving controlled substances or cannabis is maintained or conducted (2) Endangering the welfare of a minor is a Class A Misdemeanor. Therefore be it
- Resolved: If an adult, who has visitation or custody of a minor child or children, is convicted for Driving under the Influence of Intoxicants or for manufacturing, growing or delivering/distributing illegal drugs, the Oregon State Grange supports Department of Human Services (DHS) investigation and prosecution of the person for additional charges relating to child welfare.

### **NR #1: Actively Support Healthy Pollinator Populations**

- Whereas: At least three-quarters of our food requires pollination services of honey bees, native bees, and other insects; and
- Whereas: Pollinators are critical for pollinating agricultural and horticultural crops grown for seeds, fruit, flowers, nuts, and vegetables, and forage such as alfalfa for livestock; and

- Whereas: Honey bee, native bee, and other insect populations have been declining dramatically over the last 20 years, with many species on the verge of extinction or already extinct; and
- Whereas: Crop production increases when more pollinating insects are present; and
- Whereas: Growing habitat specifically for pollinators, such as hedgerows, permanent areas of native shrubs, trees, and wildflower meadows, improves beneficial insect and bird populations that reduce pest pressure in crop fields; and
- Whereas: Planting alternating insectary strips for beneficial insects in crop fields reduces the need for pesticides while improving the diversity and numbers of pollinator species and improving the soil; and
- Whereas: Too often pesticide use does not reduce pest populations, and in fact can increase the numbers and species of certain pests while decreasing the number and species of beneficial insects, including honeybee and native bee populations; and
- Whereas: Agricultural chemicals migrating into our waterways are harming fish and other aquatic organisms; and
- Whereas: Carcinogenic and neurotoxic pesticides are in our food, soil, air, and drinking water, and are now found in urine, breast milk and children's bodies
- Whereas: Pesticide drift travels offsite and may contaminate neighboring properties, including organic farms and nearby pollinator habitat; and
- Whereas: Farmers across the nation are converting to regenerative agricultural processes and practices that improve soil health, increase beneficial insect populations, and reduce the use of synthetic chemicals, and benefiting their bottom line; and
- Whereas: The Oregon State Grange recognizes and acknowledges our agricultural history and heritage and the critical importance of being good stewards of the land and the creatures upon it. Therefore be it
- Resolved: The Oregon State Grange encourages farmers to incorporate and implement agricultural practices that support pollinators, such as alternating insectary strips, no-spray areas, hedgerows, meadows, beneficial insects, and reducing or eliminating pesticides that harm pollinators. And be it further
- Resolved: The Oregon State Grange acknowledges the importance of native bees as well as honey bees to Oregon agriculture, and will annually recognize August 15 as Native Bee Conservation Awareness Day and the third Saturday in August as National Honey Bee Day. And be it further
- Resolved: The Oregon State Grange will actively support legislation supported by peer reviewed science that protects pollinators and creates safe pollinator habitat.

## **NR #2: Jordan Cove LNG Facility/Pacific Connector Pipeline**

- Whereas: The proposed Jordan Cove Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) pipeline would cross 400 rivers, streams and wetlands in Southern Oregon, with a 100-foot wide cleared swath along its length, to pipe fracked natural gas from Utah and beyond to a terminal to be constructed in Coos Bay for export to foreign markets in order to profit a foreign corporation; and

- Whereas: The path of the proposed LNG pipeline would have long-lasting and irreversible negative repercussions on farm, ranch, and forest lands, as well as natural rivers and streams used for drinking, irrigation, livestock, and other agricultural purposes; and
- Whereas: There are already 2.7 million miles of oil and gas pipelines in the U.S., for which there are only 135 federal inspectors (for 20,000 miles each), and in the years 1986-2016 there were 8,766 hazardous pipeline leaks reported by Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) in the U.S., releasing an average of 76,000 barrels total of crude oil and LNG into the environment, or about 300 incidents per year averaging 200 barrels per day; and
- Whereas: Extraction and distribution of fossil fuels are a major source of pollution because such leaks put air and water at risk of becoming toxic and unsupportive of life, and this risk is unacceptable. Therefore be it
- Resolved: The Oregon State Grange stands in support of landowners, ranchers, farmers, and concerned citizens of Oregon who are opposing the permitting and acquisition of private property by eminent domain for construction of the Jordan Cove LNG Facility/Pacific Connector Pipeline. And be it further
- Resolved: The Oregon State Grange opposes the invocation of eminent domain for construction of the Jordan Cove LNG Facility/Pacific Connector Pipeline in Oregon.

### **TR #1: Highway Improvement**

- Whereas: The fires in the Columbia Gorge in 2017 demonstrated the vulnerability of Oregon's east/west interstate network; and
- Whereas: A second east/west interstate or limited access expressway would improve Oregon's transportation system to deal with natural disaster or other cause that would block 1-84 for extended periods, and
- Whereas: The Oregon State Grange had policy until the June 2017 Session on this topic. Therefore be it
- Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange policy include support of an east/west interstate or limited access expressway from Coos Bay to Ontario. And be it further
- Resolved: That the policy also include support for a north/south route from central Oregon to an Interstate in Nevada.

### **TR #3: Transportation Section of OSG Legislative Policy: Motor Fuels and Taxes**

- Resolved: That this policy be reaffirmed:

#### **Motor Fuels and Taxes**

The Oregon State Grange requests gasoline without corrosive additives, such as but not limited to ethanol, be made available statewide. TR1.08, TR3.18

### **TR #4: Transportation Section of OSG Legislative Policy: Railroads**

- Resolved: That these policies be reaffirmed:

## **Railroads**

The Oregon State Grange supports efforts by municipalities to operate abandoned rail lines for commerce. TR4.08, TR4.18

### **TR #5: Oregon Fallen Fire Fighters Roadside Memorial Signs**

- Whereas: The Oregon Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial Ceremony recognizes all Oregon Fire Fighters who have died in the line-of-duty; and
- Whereas: The National Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, Maryland has also adopted the same criteria for Oregon's firemen; and
- Whereas: The Oregon Legislature has authorized the Department of Transportation to install and maintain roadside memorial signs to commemorate police officers and members of the armed forces who have fallen in the line of duty; and
- Whereas: The Oregon legislature has not included fallen fire fighters though criteria exist for determining who should be honored and the Oregon Fire Chiefs Foundation has established a fund to help cover costs to allow for a roadside memorial sign to be installed on a state highway. Therefore be it
- Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange lobbyist work with legislators to sponsor a bill in the 2019 Oregon legislature to have the Department of Transportation erect and maintain a roadside memorial in honor of Oregon fallen firefighters in the same manner as is done for police officers and members of the armed services.