

# Policy Resolutions Adopted at 2021 State Session

## AG #1: Maintenance of Exclusive Farm Use Zones

- Whereas: Oregon agriculture is an important part of the state economy and deserves protection by supporting rural and urban communities, contributing 686,518 jobs, \$29.71 billion in wages, and \$2.85 billion in exports to Oregon's economy; and
- Whereas: Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) lands are working lands, and need to be zoned and managed to protect local agriculture and the statewide economy; and
- Whereas: Allowed non-farm uses that have been approved as exceptions within the EFU zone have grown from just a few when land-use planning was established to more than 60 currently; and
- Whereas: Each additional non-farm use creates additional conflicts with commercial agriculture, such as heavier traffic, dust complaints, noise complaints, land value inflation, trespassing, and trash, etc. Therefore be it
- Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange supports the maintenance of the Exclusive Farm Use zone for farms and opposes allowing additional non-farm uses in the EFU zone.

## AG #2: Policies for Oregon Small Farmers and Local Consumers

- Whereas: During every Oregon legislative session thousands of bills are considered and many of these do not have a specify statement of policy in the Oregon State Grange Legislative Policy Handbook; and
- Whereas: The Oregon State Grange has only our one annual state convention in which to debate, discuss, and set policy for our State Grange; and
- Whereas: Legislation is proposed, crafted, and acted upon in a timeline which may not allow meaningful Grange policy to be formed at our state convention; and
- Whereas: Legislation that encourages safe direct to consumer meat sales, CSAs, farmers markets, safe home kitchen value-added products, and other aspects of local agriculture and consumer connection will improve family access to fresh healthy local foods and products and enrich small farm economies; and
- Whereas: Meaningful Grange advocacy by our lobbyist and by our individual members would be possible if we have policy that supports broad policy concepts and would be applicable to many specific legislative issues; and

- Whereas: Effective Grange advocacy in supporting both small farms and direct-from-farm-to-consumers will promote Grange with people desiring more reliance on local healthy fresh food; and
- Whereas: Small farmers and families shopping in farmers markets are important membership demographics for future Grange growth. Therefore be it
- Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange strongly supports policies that strengthen and improve the ways in which Oregon small farmers and their local consumers can be brought together in mutually beneficial connection.

### **AG #3: State Meat Inspection Program**

- Whereas: The number of USDA Federal Meat Inspection locations has been reduced to 13 statewide, forcing producers to transport animals long distances for slaughter and inspection; and
- Whereas: Currently only USDA inspected meat may be legally sold to restaurants and retail outlets; and
- Whereas: Oregon had a state meat inspection program that ended in the 1970s; and
- Whereas: Increased access to Oregon meat inspection facilities will encourage local producers to be able to market meat in their local area with less transport costs. Therefore be it
- Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange strongly supports a State Meat Inspection Program, with health and safety requirements that insure safe products to consumers.

### **AG #5: Adding Apprenticeships & Mentoring a Farm Food Corps Program**

- Whereas: Oregon Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley have co-sponsored the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conservation Corps Act (S. 487); and
- Whereas: The act would develop and finance Qualified Youth or Conservation Corps; and
- Whereas: The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, the Interior, Homeland Security, Commerce, or Labor, a state or local resource management agency, or another entity responsible for community development or climate adaption would establish and carry out a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conservation Corps program. The program would be carried out using qualified youth or conservation corps criteria and through Civilian Conservation Corps projects; and
- Whereas: Grants will be made to eligible qualified youth or conservation corps, acting in partnership with project partners, to carry out Civilian Conservation Corps projects, in which the grant funds are used to administer comprehensive youth and workforce development programs; and

Whereas: The National Grange, in discussion with June Colony, Oregon State Grange Agricultural Committee Co-Director, has requested Wyden and Merkley to add an amendment to the Act to specifically mention a Farm Corps program for apprenticeships and mentoring of new and beginning farmers. Therefore be it

Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange go on record supporting a Farm Corps program for apprenticeships and mentoring of new and beginning farmers.

### **AG #6: Initiative Petition #13**

Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange oppose Initiative Petition #13: "The Abuse, Neglect, and Assault Exemption Modification and Improvement Act"; and if it qualifies for the ballot the Oregon State Grange take an active role in opposition.

### **EH #1: Professional Certification of Service Animals**

Whereas: Service animals serve a very important role assisting people with a variety of disabilities and needs; and

Whereas: Service animals are afforded access to many facilities that do not allow any pets to be admitted; and

Whereas: Service animals receive significant professional training and receive certification attesting to their ability to provide bona fide service; and

Whereas: Some people will claim that their animal is a "service animal" when those animals have not received professional training; and

Whereas: There are internet sites that will email a "Service Animal Certificate" solely based on the payment of a fee. Therefore be it

Resolved: The Oregon State Grange will urge the Oregon State Legislature to require professional training and certification of "service animals." And be it further

Resolved: The Oregon State Grange forward this resolution to the National Grange for legislative action on the federal level.

### **EH #2: Education - Subjects Taught in School**

Whereas GO #11 was adopted at the 2016 Oregon State Grange convention requiring that all policies of the OSG in the Legislative Handbook that are over ten years old shall expire as of July1, 2021 unless they are affirmatively considered and reapproved. Therefore, be it

Resolved That the policy below be reaffirmed:

The Oregon State Grange believes that all students should successfully complete **financial literacy** studies prior to high school graduation or

demonstrate financial literacy by an alternate means specified by the school district.

ED1.11

### **FAI #1: No Speculation in Water Rights**

- Whereas: An average person can only survive without water for approximately three days; and
- Whereas: Access to water is vital to agriculture and rural communities; and
- Whereas: Commodifying water by creating a 'free market' for water rights will drive the price of water beyond the reach of many people, benefitting only the private investors and traders who speculate in the value and reap profit from every transaction; and
- Whereas: The creation of a 'water marketplace' opens the door to the same speculative and at times quasi-legal trading in 'futures,' 'options,' 'derivatives' and the like that has caused boom-and-bust cycles in electrical energy and other commodity markets, generating billions in profit to investors at the expense of those who need water; and
- Whereas: For an example of commodifying one of life's necessities, Texas, which has a largely unregulated open market for electricity, recently suffered severe freezing weather and storm activity, creating huge demand for electricity to heat homes and pump water, which resulted in dramatic increases in electricity rates from a typical seasonal average of \$50 per megawatt hour to \$9,000 per megawatt hour, robbing customers of their life savings and pushing some to bankruptcy, and potentially forcing a bailout that would cost taxpayers billions while the shareholders will walk away with their profits; and
- Whereas: Water speculators are already eyeing the Colorado River basin and the Columbia River basin as examples of areas with 'undervalued' water that could be sold to drier, wealthier areas at huge profit. Therefore be it
- Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange is on record as opposing the commodification of water rights. And be it further
- Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange strongly advocates for state and federal legislation that will ban speculative trading in water rights.

### **LE #1: Condemning Racially Motivated Violence**

- Whereas: In the wake of COVID-19, racially motivated attacks against members of the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community increased throughout the United States; and
- Whereas: The frequency of these abhorrent attacks has continued to escalate; and
- Whereas: The AAPI community is part of the rich ethnic diversity of the United States; and

- Whereas: The AAPI community has and continues to contribute greatly to the cultural and economic vibrancy of our nation; and
- Whereas: The Oregon State Grange always has and continues to support peaceful avenues of communication and interaction among members of the community; and
- Whereas: The Oregon State Grange always has and continues to repudiate acts of violence against any person. Therefore be it
- Resolved: The Oregon State Grange condemns all racially motivated acts of hate and violence.

**LE #5: Legislation – Regional and County Government**

- Whereas GO #11 was adopted at the 2016 Oregon State Grange convention requiring that all policies of the OSG in the Legislative Handbook that are over ten years old shall expire as of July1, 2021 unless they are affirmatively considered and reapproved. Therefore, be it
- Resolved That the policy below be reaffirmed:
- The Oregon State Grange opposes **the merger of Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties** and the management of Clackamas County by the Metro Council. LE4.11

**LE #6: Enforce Immigration Laws**

- Whereas FA8.11 regarding immigration enforcement is sunseting. Therefore be it
- Resolved That we support vigorous enforcement of U.S. immigration laws.

**LE #7: Support the Constitution**

- Whereas FA6.11 regarding the constitution is sunseting. Therefore be it
- Resolved That we support the Declaration of Independence, Constitution of the United States, and its Bill of Rights, and urge all Grange members throughout the U.S. to read these documents.

**TU #1: 24-Hour Headlights for Safety**

- Whereas: During low-light hours drivers may neglect to turn on their vehicle's headlights; and
- Whereas: Fuel-efficient aerodynamic designs result in lower profiles making vehicles harder to see; and
- Whereas: Many electric or hybrid vehicles are smaller by design; and
- Whereas: Driving with headlights on in all conditions improves visibility of oncoming vehicles, as evidenced by the requirement that motorcycle headlights are required to be always on; and

- Whereas: Increased visibility by operating headlights 24 hours per day is a safety measure that will save lives. Therefore be it
- Resolved: That the State of Oregon should enact legislation requiring 24-hour operation of vehicle headlights or daytime running lights. And be it further
- Resolved: That this resolution be forwarded to the National Grange for consideration of a 24-hour headlights or daytime running lights mandate at the federal level.

### **TU #2: Diesel Fuel**

- Whereas: HB 3305 was introduced in the Oregon legislature and in its original form would restrict the sale of petroleum diesel for over the road use; and
- Whereas: Diesel powered vehicles are essential for transporting crops and goods as well as powering recreational and light and medium duty vehicles commonly used by Oregonians; and
- Whereas: Switching from petroleum diesel to biodiesel or other alternative fuels that will run a diesel engine should be a consumer's choice, based upon cost, availability, and other economic factors rather than legislated by politicians. Therefore be it
- Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange opposes any state legislative or congressional bill or initiative measure that would restrict the sale or use of petroleum diesel for highway usage.

### **TU #3: Legislation - Railroads**

- Whereas GO #11 was adopted at the 2016 Oregon State Grange convention requiring that all policies of the OSG in the Legislative Handbook that are over ten years old shall expire as of July 1, 2021 unless they are affirmatively considered and reapproved. Therefore, be it
- Resolved That the policy below be reaffirmed:
- We advocate **long-distance shipping by rail** as a way to reduce our dependence on oil, both foreign and domestic. TR1.11

### **Reaffirmed Sunsetting Policies**

- We support any and all forms of **public funded virtual and charter schools**. ED3.11
- The State Grange advocates the use of **biomass as fuel** whenever possible and feasible at the local, county, state, and federal levels. ENR1.11
- We urge the National Grange to lobby for the removal of **earthen dust** from the list of particulate pollutants deemed to require government regulation. EE2.11
- We urge the National Grange to take such action as necessary to remove **carbon dioxide emissions** from the list of gaseous pollutants. EE1.11

We support construction of a proposed **Veterans Home** in Roseburg, Oregon and additional veteran's homes as needed.

**LE2.11**