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2017 LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY POSITIONS AND PRIORITIES



The Agribusiness Council of Indiana was formed in 2000 by two long standing agribusiness non-profit trade associations: The Indiana Grain and Feed Association, founded in 1902 and the Indiana Plant Food and Agricultural Chemicals Association, formed in 1966. This new partnership was created in order to better represent this important industry in the new century. More than 90% of Indiana agribusinesses (we have members in every county) belong to ACI via their membership in these two associations – making us the largest agribusiness network in Indiana.

2017

POSITIONS & PRIORITIES OF THE AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL OF INDIANA

TAXES & BUDGET

- Clarify the Ag sales tax exemption for application equipment used by agribusinesses
- Support an adequate budget appropriation for the Department of Ag, making the Division of Soil and Water a funding priority
- Keep Conservation Reserve Program right-sized, protecting crop insurance and making sure commodity payments are decoupled from production in the next farm bill
- Continue to support fair and equal assessment of farm and agribusiness property
- Support equal treatment to all market participants by extending producer tax exemptions to agribusinesses
- Support maintaining limited spending to continue to promoting flatter, fairer taxes and fiscal responsibility

REGULATIONS

- Protect co-ops from businesses that trade on the “co-op” name without being legally organized as a “co-op”
- Follow Congressional intent on GMO labeling without onerous record keeping
- Reject costly provisions regulating particulate matter pollution standards for grain elevators
- Oppose rulemaking that applies OSHA process safety management rules to anhydrous ammonia
- Support the use of unmanned aerial vehicles for commercial and agricultural purposes
- Make state-implemented regulatory programs limited, consistent in enforcement, predictable in application, and less burdensome to agribusiness
- Eliminate regulations that create a barrier to agribusiness growth and adopt a no more stringent than federal regulations policy
- Reform preventative planting provisions in crop insurance

TRANSPORTATION

- Ensure adequate federal and state funding for highway and local road infrastructure maintenance with a dedicated gas tax for transportation
- Support federal appropriations for the construction and redesign of key locks to reduce delays and enable large vessels
- Support policies and funding to develop and redevelop large intermodal and multimodal facilities in Indiana
- Make the CDL process work under a simplified set of common sense rules
- Provide equal treatment and a level playing field between growers and agribusinesses by enacting an exempt “agribusiness license plate”
- Support efforts to further promote competition and shipper concerns in the railroad industry

WATER

- Focus policy efforts on nutrient management, rather than numeric criteria and effluent limitations
- Establish a funding priority increase of \$250,000 for the 4R nutrient stewardship (the use of the right fertilizer source at the right rate, right time and in the right place) as a sustainable solution to ensuring agricultural producers have the greatest impact on improving our nation's water quality
- Ensure EPA and the Corps of Engineers jurisdiction for Waters of the U.S. should not extend federal control over private property, infringe upon the rights of states, and should respect the jurisdiction of other state agencies

PESTICIDES/FERTILIZERS

- Ensure approval process for seed and pesticide products is evidence-based, transparent and follows the Administrative Orders and Procedures Act
- Promote co-existence in enforcement between the Fungicide, Insecticide, and Rodenticide Act, along with the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Clean Air Act
- Support site-specific best management practices framed around the 4R nutrient stewardship system. A “one size fits all” approach, as is being advocated in some policy circles, will not achieve the common goals of productive, sustainable and economically rewarding farming that protects the environment
- Allow agribusinesses to develop self-inspection programs for anhydrous ammonia
- Oppose new policies banning pesticides and fertilizers so that farmers have the products they need to prevent reduced crop yields
- Permit agribusinesses to adopt the latest technology to reduce wastes, increase yields, and enhance stewardship
- Oppose expanding the scope of Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Safety (CFATS) to mandate inherently safer technologies

GRAIN/SEED/FEED

- Ensure reasonable regulations and smooth implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act
- Oppose attempts to regulate fugitive dust under increased standards in agricultural seed, grain, machinery, and equipment processing

BROADBAND

- Support creative policies to enable rural broadband development to help rural agriculture, schools, telemedicine, economic development, and quality of life

LIVESTOCK

- Reactivate the Indiana Land Resource Council and consider policies that allow agribusinesses focused on livestock to grow and co-exist with nonfarm neighbors by establishing areas with less densely populated residences per square mile for ag zones
- Prepare a state wildlife plan that allows wildlife, and especially threatened and endangered species, to co-exist with modern agribusiness practices
- Allow the State Chemist to develop a science-based managed pollinator protection plan, including reasonable provisions for threatened or endangered species

ENERGY

- Support policies enabling agribusinesses to control increased energy costs
- Reactivate the Indiana Land Resource Council and consider policies that encourage areas with less densely populated residences per square mile for renewable energy investments

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

- Support foreign trade accommodations for biotech, pursue free and fair trade to reduce tariffs, and grow exports to increase access to new markets