

XIV. NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Gun Control

14.010

1 We are strongly opposed to any additional gun and ammunition
2 control legislation and / or tax.

3 Any entity, be it governmental or private, that restricts private citizens
4 from their Second Amendment right to self-defense, shall be held liable
5 for the safety and well-being of anyone on their premises. (15)

6 We recommend that swift, prompt and adequate punishment be
7 administered to persons unlawfully using firearms. (08) (Referred to
8 AFBF, 08)

9

Individual Rights

14.020

1 Any individual should have the right to take such action as is
2 necessary to protect his life and property.

Federal Government Responsibility

14.025

1 We urge Congress to return to protecting the basic rights of
2 employers and allow private enterprise to use market forces to compete
3 free of excess government regulations.

4 Trade agreements generally require that producers are neither
5 subsidized by their governments nor disadvantaged with the burden of
6 standards not met by foreign competitors, unless they are reimbursed for
7 those costs.

8 We oppose the removal of existing subsidies until they can be
9 replaced with reimbursements to domestic producers for the costs of
10 environmental and labor laws that imported products are not subject to.

11 All trade agreements should allow any country to reimburse its
12 domestic producers for the higher standards required by its own citizens.
13 (08) (Referred to AFBF, 08)

Eminent Domain

14.030

1 We support legislation requiring the federal, state or county or any
2 subdivision therein or any utility, to pay all costs incurred by the land
3 owner for eminent domain proceedings including appeals.

4 We believe the eminent domain law should provide for
5 compensation, replacement and relocation where necessary, taking into
6 consideration the specific needs and requirements of the damaged
7 property.

8 We oppose the use of eminent domain for the purpose of
9 redistribution of land.

10 Condemnation of private land by any government agency should be
11 permitted only when the condemned land would be used for public health

12 requirements or the improvement of the entire community, and remains
13 in public ownership.

14 We believe that eminent domain should be utilized only as a last
15 resort. (05)

Columbia Gorge

14.040

1 We oppose federal control of the Columbia Gorge and support
2 continued challenges to the constitutionality of the seizure of private
3 property in the Columbia Gorge.

Antiquities Act

14.050

1 We believe that the Antiquities Act has been implemented contrary to
2 the original intent of the legislation. We support Antiquities Act reform to
3 require Congressional and state approval of national monument
4 designations, and to prevent the president from unilaterally designating
5 national monuments. Any reform should also require 1) that all existing
6 natural resource uses are protected in such designations, 2) that the Act
7 should only be used to protect Native American artifacts and other
8 archaeological sites, 3) that the acreage is limited to the minimum which
9 contains the artifacts or archeological sites, and 4) that the Act can only
10 be used on contiguously owned federal land and may not be used where
11 a tract of private land will be surrounded by a designated national
12 monument.(16)(Referred-to-AFBF-16)

Federal Land Planning Coordination

14.051

1 The Oregon Farm Bureau Federation supports 1) the coordination and
2 cooperation between BLM, Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife,
3 National Marine Fisheries Services and other federal agencies with
4 states, counties, and other local governments in making land
5 management plans and decisions; 2) providing assistance to states,
6 counties, and local governments in coordination and cooperating agency
7 status, 3) ensuring that the local natural resources community has a
8 strong voice in land management and that decisions are made which
9 benefit the natural resources community, and 4) ensuring that local
10 district offices have the ability to make decisions about land management
11 and engage with local communities in the development of plans.
12 Decision making should not be top down. Oregon Farm Bureau
13 vigorously opposes any changes to existing statutes or rules that reduce
14 the ability of the BLM, Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife, National
15 Marine Fisheries Services and other federal agencies to coordinate with
16 states, counties, and other local governments in making land
17 management plans and decisions. (16) (Referred to AFBF 2016)

Executive Orders **14.055**

18 We support the passage of federal legislation that would limit the
19 effective life of executive orders to two full years unless ratified by
20 congress to extend the life of the order. (01)

Citizen Suits **14.060**

1 We support reform of the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA) to prevent
2 creation of incentives to “sue and settle,” including limitations related to
3 the value of the assets of non-profit organizations who seek attorney
4 fees under the act, a cap on the amount of fees and hourly rate an entity
5 may receive, and parity between non-profit organizations and individuals
6 under EAJA. We also support the creation of legislation that requires
7 those seeking attorneys’ fees to win on each claim prior to eligibility for
8 EAJA funds for any lawsuit. We also support the creation of legislation
9 that requires individuals or groups to post a bond if their lawsuit will have
10 an effect on producers. We support continuing to keep pressure on
11 agencies and the DOJ regarding misuse of EAJA. (16) (Referred to
12 AFBF 16)

Regulatory Reform **14.100**

13 We support a regulatory reform act which would restrict regulatory
14 agencies and commissions from arbitrarily imposing rules and
15 regulations that are contrary to and/or beyond the intent of the
16 legislation.

Policy 13.130, Federal Reserve System, was deleted in 2005

Policy No. 13.140, Monetary and Spending Policies, was deleted in 2005

Presidential Elections **14.145**

17 We emphatically support the Electoral College for presidential
18 elections.

19 Electors should be required to vote for the candidates on the ballots
20 to which they were committed.

21 We are opposed to making the popular vote the only determination
22 of electing the President of the United States. (01)

Congressional Salaries **14.150**

1 We oppose congressional salary raises until such time as Congress
2 balances the federal budget.

Policy No. 13.160, Grant Monies, was deleted in 2005

Senate Apportionment **14.170**

1 We support the reversal of the Baker vs. Carr decision so that one
2 house in each state legislature can be apportioned on an area basis.

Food Bill **14.200**

1 We urge the words "Food Bill" to be used instead of "Farm Bill" to
2 illustrate that the majority of dollars go to food assistance programs, not
3 producers. The Food Bill would have two sections; 1. Agriculture
4 Production Ag. and 2. Food and Nutrition Non Production Ag. (11),
5 (Referred to AFBF, 11)

Policy No. 13.200, U.H.F. Stations, was deleted in 2005

Policy No. 13.220, T.V. Scrambling, was deleted in 2005

National Weather Service **14.230**

1 We oppose the sale of the National Weather Service to private
2 enterprise.

Farm Credit **14.300**

1 The federal government should guarantee the bonds issued by the
2 Federal Credit Administration, and if necessary, increase the limit on the
3 volume of their issuance in order to reducing the interest rate.

4 We support the concept of debt restructuring if debt is restructured
5 only for farmers who run a viable economic operation. Debt should be
6 restructured so that farmers who qualify can pay off their debt.

7 We support restructuring short term and intermediate term debt into
8 long term debt to give qualified borrowers additional time to repay
9 principal and reduce their annual debt and service obligation.

Management of Lands Under Foreclosure **14.320**

1 When a government agency forecloses on farms or ranches, it
2 should take responsibility to maintain the agricultural integrity of those
3 lands and facilities. We believe the best way to do this is to rent, lease,
4 or sell the land to other farmers or ranchers.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) Foreclosures **14.330**

1 Land foreclosed on, by FSA, should be sold to private interests
2 without special consideration for ethnic origin, age, gender or religion
3 and should not be held by or converted to government use.

**Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resource Conservation
Service (NRCS) Office Co-Location** **14.340**

1 To make it easier for producers to access government farm
2 programs, we support co-locating the local NRCS offices and the local
3 FSA offices. (07)

State of Columbia **14.400**

1 We oppose the creation of a State of Columbia from the District of
2 Columbia.

Foreign Investment 14.500

1 Except for ownership by resident aliens, we oppose the foreign
2 ownership of U.S. lands. (04)

Policy No. 13.525, Indian Policies, was deleted in 2005

English the Official National Language 14.550

1 English should be the sole official language of the United States of
2 America, for its states; commonwealths; territories; for all documents,
3 public and private; in all courts of law; in all teaching; and in all business
4 dealings and transactions.

Anti-Trust 14.600

1 We support action at the federal level to insure that the U.S.
2 Department of Justice strongly enforces the anti-trust provisions when
3 reviewing and acting on requests by agricultural processors.

Producer Purchase 14.610

1 We shall work to include the same tax advantages for producer-
2 purchased companies transitioned into co-ops as are presently available
3 for employee-purchased companies. (05)

Trade Negotiations 14.700

1 While we support free trade through the reduction of tariffs,
2 Congress and the Administration must at the same time vigorously work
3 to eliminate "reverse tariffs" which are systematically destroying
4 agriculture's and other U.S. business' ability to compete in the world
5 market.

6 Reverse tariffs impose costs on U.S. producers that are not equally
7 imposed on other countries.

8 Reverse tariffs are imposed in the form of ever increasing minimum
9 wage laws; Social Security taxes; Medicare; Unemployment Insurance;
10 Workers' Compensation Insurance; OSHA and EPA regulations; other
11 taxes and fees; bureaucratic red tape and numerous other regulations.

12 Through Congress and the adoption of agency rules the American
13 people have established high standards for businesses and the products
14 we produce. Those standards should not be selectively imposed on just
15 American producers and products.

16 Any country should have the right of free trade with America when
17 they have the same production standards that we have.

18 We support placing a moratorium on any new regulation of business
19 until the responsibility of the Department of Commerce is changed to:

- 20 1. Standardizing all current government regulations;
- 21 2. Require all products imported into the U.S. to meet the same
22 standards;

- 23 3. Determine compliance of imports with U.S. standards;
24 4. Determine the cost to U.S. producers of current and any
25 proposed future regulations; and either compensate producers
26 for these costs or impose import fees equal to the cost of the
27 regulations to the American producers. (04), (05)

Export Enhancement Program 14.705

1 The Export Enhancement Program should be made available to all
2 countries and all commodities where the United States faces unfair or
3 subsidized competition from foreign suppliers. The USDA should be
4 required to use the money set aside to enhance U.S. farmer's
5 competitiveness in foreign markets as intended by Congress. (00)

Trade Agreements 14.710

1 The AFBF and OFBF should continue to encourage an investigation
2 into whether all segments of agriculture are being treated fairly under
3 trade agreements and to seek corrective action where indicated.

4 Until such time as the support given by participating governments
5 allow a level economic playing-field for all agricultural producers' and
6 their intellectual property rights and ensures that all patent laws are
7 respected, and until such time as the rules set down in both agreements
8 are enforced by all cooperating governments, and until such time as
9 those violating the rules are penalized for breaking those rules, the
10 portions of the trade agreements that deal with the agriculture industry
11 should be suspended. (05)

Invasive Species 14.715

1 The land grant colleges and universities (Agricultural Research
2 Service (ARS) & Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Plant
3 Materials Laboratory) should continue to search for and develop plant
4 material for forage production, conservation and wildlife uses.

5 Universities (ARS & ES) and federal agencies should promote the
6 use of domestically-developed, imported and native plant species for
7 forage production, conservation and wildlife activities.

8 Public agencies should be prohibited from planting or allowing to
9 grow any invasive species for landscaping or any other purposes.

10 The best plant species available, native or non-native should be used
11 for forage production, conservation or wildlife purposes.

12 Further NRCS should continue support and allow the use of
13 domestically developed and/or imported plant species in their cost share
14 programs.

15 Government units that own public rights-of-way land should
16 undertake proactive control programs to destroy and prevent the spread
17 of those plants that are classified as invasive species onto adjacent farm,
18 ranch, or forest lands. (00), (04)

Secure Rural Schools **14.720**

1 So long as timber harvesting is not permitted and/or limited on
2 federal land, we support the National Secure Rural Schools Program to
3 replace the revenues lost. These revenues should be earmarked for the
4 counties where timber revenues were lost. (07)

REAL ID **14.725**

1 The State of Oregon should comply with the federal government to
2 ensure that personal identification in Oregon is an acceptable form of ID
3 at the federal level.

4 This should be accomplished with minimal adverse effect on the
5 ability of agriculture employees to drive vehicles (see Policy No. 4.180).
6 (07)

New Hires **14.730**

1 We support the repeal of the requirement for reporting of new hires.
2 (07)

Social Security Payments for Refugees **14.735**

1 Foreign refugees should only qualify for social security benefits if
2 they have worked the required number of quarters. (08) (Referred to
3 AFBF, 08)

Social Security Trust Fund **14.800**

1 We support action now to eliminate the projected deficit in the Social
2 Security Trust Fund. We oppose the so-called "Social Security
3 Totalization" agreements with foreign countries that would award Social
4 Security benefits to foreign workers who use invalid, fake or forged
5 Social Security numbers to work illegally. (09), (11), (Referred to AFBF,
6 11)

Balanced Federal Budget **14.900**

1 Except during recessions, the federal budget should be balanced.
2 Every effort should be made to use spending cuts to eliminate a deficit.
3 (09)

Federal Reserve **14.910**

1 Be it resolved that the Federal Reserve be fully audited. (Referred to
2 AFBF 2012) (12)

Gold and Silver Currency **14.920**

1 Be it resolved that the U.S.A. and the State of Oregon allow gold and
2 silver to be legal tender and exempt all transactions in Gold and silver
3 from any capital gains taxes. (Referred to AFBF 2012) (12)

Farm Bill Nutrition 14.930

- 1 We support keeping traditional farm bill programs with the nutrition title in
- 2 one legislative package.
- 3 (16) (Referred to AFBF 16)

Farm Bill Specialty Crop Allocation 14.940

- 1 We support collaborating with USDA on how funding can be better
- 2 spread among numerous entities and an appeal process by which an
- 3 entity can navigate in cases of one sided grants being awarded.
- 4 (16)(Referred to AFBF 16)

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program 14.950

- 1 We support incorporating all types of fruits and vegetables (fresh, frozen,
- 2 canned and dried) into the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)
- 3 providing an affordable option for increasing the variety available year-
- 4 round for low income school children and more market opportunity for
- 5 producers.(16) (Referred to AFBF 16)

Farm Bill Specialty Crop Dollars and FSMA 14.960

- 1 We oppose the use of Specialty Crop Block Grant Fund (SCBGF) to be
- 2 used for Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) implementation. This
- 3 congressional mandate must be funded through the Health and Human
- 4 Services (HHS) Federal Drug Administration budget. (16) (Referred to
- 5 AFBF 16)