

WASHINGTON STATE GRANGE

Legislative Handbook



2017

2017 Legislative Priorities

Washington State Grange is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization. The Grange does not limit any member's freedom to think, believe or vote as he or she pleases. However, we always give full support to good legislation that better the lives of our members and all Washington citizens.

Our primary legislative objective is to represent the views of rural residents and the agriculture community.

2017 Legislative Priorities:

- Maintaining access to water is essential to our rural communities. We believe it is critical that the legislature correct the crisis created by the Hirst Decision that also protects rural and agricultural water use.
- We believe the role of government is to design a tax system that encourages the stimulation of economic activity, growth, and increased job opportunity. We support a fair and balanced approach to taxation that isn't burdensome to taxpayers.
- Supporting a strong educational system is the cornerstone of our society as part of that we believe that our agricultural fairs are an integral component in the teaching of basic agricultural concepts and brings forth further education in to where food comes. We support the current state fair funding levels to maintain our agricultural fairs program.
- We believe in a balanced approach to the transportation of people and goods. We support transportation infrastructure projects that improve flow of agriculture.
- We believe it is vital to maximize agriculture's ability to create jobs and compete in a global economy. It is important to protect agriculture from overzealous regulations.



Agriculture



Index

Agriculture – 3
Conservation & Ecology – 9
Cooperatives – 14
Education – 15
Fish & Wildlife – 17
Health Care & Safety – 19
State & National Issues – 21
Taxation – 26
Transportation – 27
Legislative Information – 30

Note: Throughout this booklet, **language in bold type** was adopted at the most recent State Grange convention. **Numbers appearing in bold** indicate that the numbering sequence within the section was changed at the most recent convention.

The Washington State Grange understands the impact agriculture has on the vitality of our rural communities and the economy of Washington State. Agriculture needs an adequate labor force to continue to produce food and fiber for the public. We support property rights and the right to farm. We oppose excessive regulations that hinder the ability of farms

General Issues

1. We urge lawmakers to review an Economic Impact Statement (EIS) prior to implementing regulations that inhibit or affect the economic impact of agriculture.
2. We support funding to develop plans for the use of digesters for treating sewage, manure and food waste.
3. We support subsidizing the construction of methane digesters to produce heat and electrical power and by-products.

4. We urge lawmakers to seek legislation to ensure that all farmers receive equitable compensation from the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife program for damage (by wildfire) on their farm or leased land within 90 days of filing a claim.

5. We oppose regulation of methane produced by livestock.

6. We want the Forest Practices rules including prescribed burning to reflect the realities of dry land forests in Eastern Washington and to foster sustainable, consistent forestry production and viable long term timber industry while minimizing damage to our watersheds and drainage areas.

7. We support 4H, FFA and youth agriculture programs.

8. We support kids 12-15 years of age working in agriculture.

9. We support the Centennial Farm Program.

Labor

1. We believe employers should not be held responsible for determining their workers' citizenship status.

2. We urge the use of negotiating procedures, which may include employment of an intermediary, to prohibit losses caused by strikes.

3. We oppose strikes which inhibit the harvesting, transporting or processing of perishable commodities.

4. We support placing limitations on state and federally funded indigent legal services groups.

5. We recommend that the unemployment insurance program, as it applies to labor, be reformed to bring benefits in line with national standards.

6. We are in favor of reasonable standards for temporary farm labor housing.

7. We believe the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Agricultural Statistic Service (NASS), should work with the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the National Resource and Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Risk Management Agency to collect and disseminate the information collected for economic and legislative decisions.

8. We support the development and immediate implementation of a legal and functional guest worker program.

9. We support legislation that would not deem the presence of a minor in a work area on a farm sufficient proof that said minor is engaged in farm labor and furthermore, would not serve as cause to seize the crop and suspend work. It is our belief that a minor may be involved on their family's farm, or under direct control of their guardian on another's farm.

10. We support changing the definition of "hot goods" to exclude perishable farm commodities.

Marketing and Trade

1. We support direct marketing of Washington farm products at farmers' markets, roadside stands, fairs, and other acceptable areas.

2. We support negotiation of **favorable** trade agreements with all nations willing to import commodities grown in Washington.

3. We support the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), Washington State Department of Commerce and other market development entities in their efforts to develop new foreign markets for agricultural products.

4. We support all efforts by market development entities to procure Market Promotion Program (MPP) funds available from the U.S. Government to aid in developing new foreign markets.

5. We support Washington State University's International Marketing Program for Agricultural Commodities and Trade (IMPACT Center).

6. We strongly support that the Export Enhancement Programs (EEP) and Market Access Programs (MAP) be combined under the MAP program.

7. We believe that pure honey be defined as only that material produced by honey bees.

8. We oppose importing foreign products treated with chemicals that have been banned in the U.S.

9. We urge the President and Congress to devise a plan to reduce the federal trade deficit by the negotiation and development of realistic and workable international trade agreements.

10. We believe grain standards should be continually strengthened to improve the marketability of U.S. grains.

11. We support the continuation of the

United States Grain Standards Act.

12. We oppose the addition or blending of feed quality grains with #2 or better grains.

13. We oppose all embargoes and sanctions on grain, food, medicine, or other humanitarian goods and services unless national security is involved. 14. We encourage the state Legislature to fund agricultural exhibits

at local, county and state fairs and to continue permanent fair funding.

15. We oppose importing foreign products that do not meet U.S. specifications.

16. We oppose budget cuts to the Small Farm and Direct Market Program of the WSDA.

17. We urge elected and appointed officials uphold RCW 36.71.090 and interpret it to mean that farmers can sell their farm products on public property without a vendor's license or any other type of license or encumbrance.

18. We support continual negotiations with WTO for fair prices to the agricultural industry.

19. We support the Washington State Fairs Commission to continue their volunteer work for the betterment of the agricultural fairs and youth shows across the State of Washington.

20. We support the labeling of all foreign products and their additives imported into the United States and that they be labeled with country of origin and processing.

21. We recommend that all imported food products be labeled as such. We urge strict inspection by U.S. inspectors to ensure foreign food products meet U.S. standards.

Land Use

1. We believe that private property rights should not be encroached upon by any governmental agencies without just compensation for the reduced value of the use of that property as determined by an independent appraiser.

2. We support requiring government entities to compensate private property owners for actions which limit their ability to use their land. We urge this compensation adequately reflect the true value of the property being taken as determined by an independent appraiser.

3. We believe wetland preservation and wild and scenic designations need constant work to prevent

wrongful treatment of landowners and infringement on private property rights.

4. We oppose state and federal proposals to halt historical farming practices on land included in wetlands and wetland buffers and critical areas.

5. We oppose very specific permanent buffers (**big dumb buffers**) as a requirement not specified by farm plan best management practices.

6. We urge local Granges to promote community forums between landowners, sportsmen, and other land users.

7. We support legislation that requires government agencies to publicly review potential land use rules to determine necessity, cost to private landowners and the least burdensome alternative to land owners.

8. We believe that private property rights should have precedence over environmental concerns.

9. We believe land use regulations and permits should be consolidated and simplified. Applications should be acted upon in a timely manner.

10. We believe zoning codes should allow family members to set up residence on family farms in cluster form without subdividing or short platting.

11. We believe public trails can be incompatible with agricultural lands and that abandoned railroad right-of-ways revert to or be offered to adjacent landowners.

12. Government agencies should avoid agricultural lands when selecting sites for roads and other facilities.

13. We believe agencies should be prohibited from using a wetland delineation process that is more stringent than that used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

14. We request greater financial support for riverbank stabilization.

15. We believe **management of sediment** silt from rivers would reduce damage from flooding.

16. We support legislation to define "public use" for the purposes of eminent domain as currently interpreted by the Washington state courts, to prohibit the use of eminent domain for any other purpose, and to give the original property owner or his or her successors the first right to buy back the property in its original condition at the value established in the eminent domain proceeding if the state or local government subsequently decides to dispose of it. Any devaluation



of the property will be compensated for in addition to the value originally established.

17. We oppose any private properties taken by governments for reasons that would only benefit private individuals or commercial developers.

18. We strongly urge the U.S. Department of Agriculture to change their merchantable timber harvesting

policy to allow timber to be harvested within a one-year period of the date of a fire.

19. We oppose any changes to the current immunity of farmers from liability for injuries resulting from recreation or other uses of their land by the public.

20. We support imposing a fine sufficient to cover damage to farm property caused by the driver of a vehicle.

21. We recommend that, when forestland is taken out of production due to changes in riparian regulations, affected landowners be **compensated at full value as determined by an independent appraiser.**

22. We encourage county commissioners to be educated in the application of transferable development rights and that the use of transferable development rights be instituted by counties. We ask that special

consideration be given to Transferable Development Rights/**Purchase** Development Rights (TDR/PDR) programs and include sunset clauses.

23. We support state legislation to guarantee a property owner who establishes a conservation easement affecting a significant portion of an undeveloped parcel the right to continue to use the remainder of that property that is not included in a conservation easement for any purpose that was otherwise permitted at the time the easement was established.

24. We support legislation to remove the penalty to remove land from open space designation if it has been in open space for a minimum of ten years.

25. We believe government and/or NGO agents must abide by criminal trespass laws as defined in RCW 9A.52.

26. We support legislation to require any entity to notify property owners in a timely manner, directly and in writing, whenever changes are being proposed that will affect the use, enjoyment or value of that property in the future.

27. We support liberal application and interpretation of open space and current use taxation laws in favor of the landowner.

Growth Management

1. We recommend the Growth Management Act be repealed. If repeal is not feasible, we then suggest allowing counties to opt out and eliminate the Growth Management Hearings Boards so emphasis can be placed on local decision-making.

2. We favor local government having a voice in the control of the design of any and all comprehensive plans.

3. We recommend that local governments set all building permit rules and regulations.

Public Lands

1. We support no net gain in publicly owned lands except to consolidate ownership to improve management. We further support a decrease by the amount of land declared to be surplus. Land should not be purchased for the purpose of parks or wildlife refuges if sufficient funds for maintenance and operation are not available.

2. We strongly urge state and federal agencies to manage public lands by the following objectives:

a. Multiple uses; grazing, controlled burns, timber harvests and recreation.

b. Manage Roadless and wilderness areas for the improvement of forest health.

c. Exempt fire-damaged, insect-infected, and windfall areas from the appeal process so that the maximum value of the damaged material is realized through harvest and restoration measures and replanting may be accomplished at the earliest possible time.

3. We encourage the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to work diligently toward returning to managing all state timber for the highest value in dollars returned to the trusts.

4. We support lifting the export ban on timber harvested from state forest trust lands.

5. We oppose the DNR purchase of additional lands to create Natural Area Preserves and the policy of no-access for low impact recreational use of these areas.

6. We oppose the selling or leasing of agricultural useable public lands for purposes that do not maintain such lands in an agricultural state.

8. We believe local citizens and local governments should make decisions regarding protection and management of



Photo by Victoria Anderson

public lands.

9. All state and federal grazing leases should be required to have livestock to fill the lease.

10. No public entity should be allowed on private property without previous permission by the landowner.

11. We believe access to existing trails and roads on state lands should be free to the public.

12. We urge the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Forest Service to keep existing trails and roads open for public access.

13. We oppose all legislation that creates additional wilderness, National & State Parks, National Monuments or natural preserves designated areas in Washington State, as they do not benefit the local economy.

14. We support federal and state forest land management agencies' existing programs to address the forest health crisis in Washington. We urge the U.S. Congress and Washington State legislature to fully fund and direct these agencies to create and maintain healthy, fire resilient forest landscapes and allow timely sale of forest products to offset the cost of forest restoration.

Production

1. We support legislation against the disparagement of Washington State agricultural products or practices. Any producer who suffers damages as a result of disparagement of agricultural products and/or practices should be compensated

for losses incurred.

2. We recommend the WSDA continue their efforts to control the Apple Maggot, Gypsy Moth, Asian Gypsy Moth and other contagious infestations.

3. We urge support of WSDA and WSU Extension Service to inform the public of the need to control insects and pests in neglected fruit trees near commercial orchards.

4. We urge WSDA and USDA to guard against mite infestation of bee colonies.

5. We recommend cooperation between beekeepers and agricultural users of bees for the protection of bees.

6. We support legislation to reactivate the bee inspector program which was eliminated in the 1980's.

7. We support legislation to have the bee industry included in the definition of an agricultural business.

8. We believe that apiaries should be designated agriculture and protected the same as poultry and livestock under the Right to Farm Act.

9. We support the "right to harvest" concept to allow the harvest of long-term crops.

10. We support increased technical assistance to farmers through both WSU Cooperative Extension and county Conservation Districts.

11. We support the promotion of farming as a profitable and viable occupation with minimal regulation, and will strive toward the goal of increasing farm profits.

12. We encourage the development of

home farm businesses.

13. We urge Congress to legalize the growing of industrial hemp in the United States.

14. We oppose any application of the Business & Occupation (B&O) tax to agricultural products being sold directly by the producer.

15. We recommend requiring genetically engineered foods to be labeled in the United States. We also recommend requiring safety testing of genetically engineered crops to make sure human health and the environment are protected.

16. We stand firmly on the side of protecting private property against contamination by, and legal action from, the spread of genetically engineered organisms that impact the livelihood and economic well-being of those who till the soil.

17. We believe farmers and backyard gardeners have the right to save, retain, and protect their private seed stock for their own planting. Farmers and gardeners should be exempt from crosspollination claims by those who have created and failed to control the spread of proprietary seeds.

18. We strongly support vegetable and forage production.

19. We recommend regulation of Aqua-culture be returned to the WSDA.

Research and Science

1. We support funding for agricultural

research at land grant universities in order to assure safe food, lower costs, conservation of soil and water, and public health.

2. Because Washington State University is a land grant university, we urge that it require individuals involved in agriculture fill a minimum of one-third of the seats on the university's board of regents.

3. We recommend that Ag organizations be involved in the nominations of the Board of Regents at WSU.

4. We request when selecting a Dean of College of Agriculture and Human & Natural Resource Sciences and/or

a Director of Cooperative Extension that selection criteria demonstrate a commitment to the enhancement of agriculture and dedication to the traditional role of technology to the farm.

5. We support research on biotechnology and genetic engineering in agriculture.

6. We support federal funding for agricultural research projects at WSU.

7. We support funding for the Equine Program at Washington State University.

8. We support increasing penalties to a class C felony when vandalism destroys research laboratories.

9. We oppose the opening of the U.S. border to Canadian live beef of any age until there is documented proof that BSE has not existed for several years as determined through testing and inspections.

10. We oppose broad-based bans or restrictions on the use of agricultural chemicals until suitable alternatives have been developed.

12. We support a full review of scientific evidence and field study of neonicotinoids.

13. We urge expedited research and development of new and improved farm chemicals.

14. Agricultural organizations should promote programs to inform and educate all users, rural and urban, about safe application of chemicals.

15. We support the use of approved disposal sites identified for agricultural chemicals.

16. We request that chemical companies be responsible for developing recycling programs for used chemical containers.

17. We support the Commission

on Pesticide Registration in its efforts to direct studies at WSU Food & Environmental Quality Lab regarding the registration of minor crop pesticides.

18. We support public-private partnerships in funding research to support registration of minor crop pesticides.

19. We urge that pesticide regulation remain with the WSDA and that sufficient funding and staffing be provided.

20. We support a streamlined approach to pesticide inventory reporting.

21. We recommend practical standards to be set in regard to chemical trespass (no damage, no liability).

22. We support legislation freeing farmers and users from liability when pesticides and herbicides are used in accordance with manufacturers' instructions, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), state and federal regulations.

23. We support a clear definition of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in a sustainable approach to managing pests by combining biological, cultural, physical, chemical and genetic tools in a way that minimizes environmental, health and economic risk.

24. We recommend that the Washington State Grange continue to monitor the USDA certified organic code.

25. We support the ability to restore living organisms, including genes, partial genetic sequences, microorganisms, seeds, and animals to the legal status prior to 1980.

26. We support that farmers be protected from lawsuits by genetically modified patent holders for the unintentional presence of patented DNA in their crops.

27. We support funding for honey bee research, especially the programs at Washington State University and the University of California-Davis.

28. We support research and development of biochar.

Noxious Weeds

1. We recommend the increased use of biological control agents to control noxious weeds.

2. We support a requirement that all birdseed packages include in the list of ingredients the genus and species of its contents to aid state and county weed boards in controlling the spread of

noxious weeds.

3. We support cooperation between county weed boards to enact weed control programs where none currently exist.

4. We believe the responsibility for controlling noxious weeds should lie with the owners of the land, be it public or private.

5. We recommend State and Federal Governments utilize the results in Biological, Chemical and Integrated Noxious Weed Control.

6. We believe every county must have a weed management program.

USDA Programs

1. We support effective farm programs on the state and national level.

2. We support the continued use of multi-peril crop insurance and

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation in preference to the disaster payment program.

3. We support continuation of the USDA food stamp program but urge strict control to avoid abuse of this system.

4. We encourage consideration when developing farm programs to avoid programs that aid one segment of agriculture while damaging another.

5. We encourage full USDA funding of wheat, vegetable and forage production research programs.

6. We actively support the continuation of the Conservation Reserve Program.

7. The following are the policies and directions we recommend Congress follow:

a. Support farm entrepreneurship, rural development, and better diets with special provisions to encourage and support small farms

b. Help farmers and ranchers manage risk c. Compensate farmers and ranchers for environmental stewardship

d. Expand, improve, and simplify working lands conservation programs

e. Increase effectiveness and impact of conservation programs

8. We support legislation to allow the slaughter of horses to be inspected for human consumption, or any other beneficial use.

Animal Welfare

1. We support the humane and economic use of animal agriculture production.

2. We support efforts to ensure the strict punishment and liability of individuals and organizations that commit illegal actions against animal agriculture producers and biomedical researchers and facilities.

3. We support legislation to ensure the use of due process when investigating animal cruelty complaints.

4. We support rodeos and livestock shows and the use of livestock at these shows.

Dairy

1. We encourage the distribution of surplus dairy commodities to underprivileged citizens of the U.S.

2. We support continuation of the school milk program, including choices of low-fat homogenized and chocolate milk, to be offered for both breakfast and lunch programs. If snacks are served, we suggest all agriculture products be considered.

3. We recommend support for the National Milk Producers Federation programs.

4. We recommend that dairy heifers be vaccinated for brucellosis by eight months of age.

5. We encourage WSU's research on production efficiencies and new product development for the dairy industry.

6. We support continuation of the national advertising assessment of \$.15/cwt. with \$.05 used by the National Dairy Board and \$.10 returned to the producing state for promotion programs.

7. We support the concept of the dairy industry recommendation for dairy waste

management.

8. We oppose the use of citizen lawsuits and over-zealous groups concerning nutrient management.

9. We favor continuation of the promotion of dairy products based on their merits.

10. We urge that imitation dairy products be plainly labeled.

11. We support the Northwest Marketing Federation in their efforts to stabilize the fluid milk price.

12. We recommend changing dairy license requirements for small operations, particularly those pertaining to goats and sheep, and provide equitable financial support for health tests that are necessary and/or required.

13. We support the establishment of policies and regulations for a "Grade A Raw Milk – Certified" milk grade, and on farm sales of raw milk, that will ensure consumer safety and will support and not economically burden micro-dairies.

Livestock and Poultry

1. We urge continued work on reciprocal trade agreements for meat imports and exports.

2. We urge the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to include the quantity of meat imports in a biennial report.

3. We urge that state institutions use meat produced and processed in this state.

4. We urge continued licensing and inspection of custom farm slaughterers and meat facilities.

5. We support the use of irradiation

as a method of controlling E. coli, salmonella, and other food-borne pathogens.

6. We believe that the responsibility of preventing a collision between a vehicle and livestock on open range is the responsibility of the vehicle operator.

7. We support protecting land and livestock owners from liability if animals escape due to fence damage beyond the owner's control.

8. We oppose any changes in the current Open Range Law.

9. We urge the State of Washington make Canadian trucks hauling livestock into or through our state adhere to state and federal laws.

10. We support the use of exempt wells for livestock use.

11. We support legislation to stop "Potential to Pollute" harassment of animal owners by Department of Ecology.

12. We recommend that anyone bidding on state land leases currently in agriculture or livestock, remain in the same use.

13. When a land lease is to be renewed, we oppose the Department of Natural Resources putting it up for bid and giving it to the highest bidder while disregarding the current lease holder's investment.

14. We strongly encourage the USDA to keep confidential all information pertaining to Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) nutrient management plans and not be subject to public disclosure laws.

15. We support the Washington State Brand Inspection Program.

16. We support efforts to maintain commercial processing facilities for the humane disposal of unwanted agricultural animals.

17. We believe stock watering shall be able to exist as the RCW provides, allowing for herd expansion that does not limit herd size within reasonable expectations.

18. We support a state Animal Disease Traceability system and adequate funding to maintain and operate the system.

19. We oppose the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Food Safety Modernization Act that prevents the feeding of spent brewer's grains or other food processing byproducts to livestock.



Conservation and Ecology



Grange members have long been recognized as good stewards of natural resources. We believe locally led conservation efforts are more effective and garner the most ownership by citizens and agencies. We believe that environmental protection and enhancement is possible without threatening prosperity or constitutional rights. We believe responsible stewardship of natural resources require a balance between use and preservation.

Air Quality

1. We support agricultural burning as a management tool. We believe that burning regulations must be based on proven scientific data and request that any per acre fees for agricultural burning exclusively fund research and public education of alternatives to debris and field burning practices.
2. We support local air authorities' ability to monitor agricultural burning. We oppose placing a fixed limit on the number of days of allowable burning.
3. Washington State Grange supports

alternative burn research on alternatives to field burning in orchards and vineyards.

4. We support WSU air quality research in the Columbia Plateau Project and dissemination of their findings.

5. We support Biomass energy research as well as Cellulosic ethanol and gasification of straw.

6. All heating and cooking devices must be allowed to be used as long as they were compliant with rules, regulations or local customs at the time of installation without interference from local and state governments.

Environmental Regulation

1. We support legislation requiring that all complaints registered with a state agency be issued in writing with the complainant's name and address, accompanied by a detailed description of the alleged infraction.

2. Prior to a state agency invoking emergency environmental regulations, we support the basis for the emergency should be made public, the danger to

the public should be defined and the emergency measures must be shown to reduce the danger.

3. All environmental rules, regulations and required practices should be based on current, proven, peer-reviewed scientific data **and does not cause undue economic or physical disadvantage to the citizens of the state.**

4. When hazardous pollution is identified, all sources contributing to the problem should be regulated equally.

5. We support sound, peer-reviewed science, including historical data and all other objective scientific research concerning climate change.

6. We believe environmental laws, rules and regulations concerning land and natural resources must be made with equal balance and concern given to farms, fish, people and wildlife.

7. The Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) contains a myriad of science-based peer-reviewed practices that landowners voluntarily use to improve natural resources for their land. We support the use of the FOTG and believe that a fully implemented conservation plan meets all federal, state, and local regulatory requirements.

Cap and Trade

1. We support cap and trade only if the following standards are met:

- a. Proven environmental benefit by peer-reviewed science and historical data.
- b. Does not cause undue economic disadvantage to the citizens of the state.
- c. All greenhouse gas emitters are treated equitably.

Conservation Districts

1. We support the independence of the Washington State Conservation Commission and believe the conservation Districts and the commission should be lead agencies for all voluntary, incentive based landowner stewardship programs.

2. We support the role of conservation districts as the primary source of technical



For all your insurance needs **FARM HOME AUTO**

Grange Insurance Association is a regional mutual insurance company - a Western company serving Western families since 1894. Grange Insurance is small enough to pay individual attention to every customer. Yet it has the financial strength to provide the coverage you need at competitive rates.

Wherever you live, whether you need coverage for your farm, home or auto, Grange Insurance makes sense.

To locate an agent near you visit:
www.grange.com

SERVING THE WEST
SINCE 1894



200 Cedar Street
Seattle, WA

800-247-2643

assistance for landowners and require all environmental enforcement agencies to refer landowners to conservation districts prior to taking action.

3. We support Conservation District elections as provided for in 89.08.190 RCW.

Forestry Management

1. We support sound management of all forested land in the state as sustainable and renewable resources.

2. We urge a forest practices policy which allows the post-harvest cutting of firewood.

3. We oppose extra fees or other burdens imposed upon those burning forest debris.

4. We support biological insect control in forests and agricultural lands.

5. The Washington State Grange urges the United States Forest Service to take into account the economic and social impact on adjacent and enclosed communities with regard to changing personnel or boundary lines within the National Forest Ranger Districts.

6. We urge congress to invest greater resources in the state and private forestry programs.

7. We support that an independent economic impact analysis must be performed when creating or changing the designation of public preserves.

8. We believe that timber that is diseased or charred and not good for commercial lumber should be harvested.

9. We support that an environmental impact report be prepared whenever forest roads be recommended for decommissioning, or prior to other erosion control methods being implemented.

10. We support legislative funding of the Firewise program which has been instrumental in saving millions of dollars in property.

11. We support turning over the John Wayne to the adjoining land

owners for their use and to control weeds while the State of Washington maintains ownership of the Right of Way for possible further use such as putting in a railroad or a trail if the State of Washington secures the funding for maintenance of said trail.

Extraction of Natural Resources

1. If a mining or oil company fulfills all requirements of environmental laws and regulations, we believe that government agencies should encourage the extraction of mineral products and expedite applicable environmental impact statements and all required permits.

Pollution and Waste

1. We support community recycling and waste management education and programs.

2. We support a strict criterion for the designation and operation of hazardous waste sites.

3. We believe placement of hazardous waste facilities should not harm agricultural lands.

4. We support treatment of all hazardous waste to a benign state, regardless of source, before it is placed in a landfill.

5. We support the use of non-toxic sludge as a fertilizer when applied in a safe and environmentally-sound manner.

6. We support requiring oil spill equipment on board oil tankers.

7. We support soil test analysis as a basis for fertilizer application.

8. We support promoting recyclable plastic products.

Water Resources

1. We recognize water resources as a fundamental part of the economy and way of life in Washington State. We believe the agricultural community should have a strong voice in water resource program development.

2. We support the use of peer reviewed scientific data prior to withdrawing waters of the state from additional appropriations and the department writing the rules must insure sufficient water for future permit exempt well users.

3. We support the repeal of the Department of Ecology's Instream Flow rulemaking and requiring the Department initiate a new rulemaking process that includes **and officially notifies** landowners and reserves water for domestic uses.

4. In regard to settling disputes over water rights, we support a decision making process that emphasizes local expertise and the needs of agricultural and other local water users.

5. We support increased storage and other improvements, which enhance a dependable water supply for irrigation. Water appropriated for irrigation should be based on a policy promoting and protecting the family farm.

6. We urge the orderly and timely development of the second half of the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project with reasonable long-term repayment schedules. We ask that sufficient water in the Columbia River be maintained for this and other agricultural purposes.

7. We support the purpose of the Grand Coulee Dam to provide adequate supplies of water for agricultural irrigation and power.

8. We support the Columbia Basin Odessa Aquifer development project.

9. We oppose inter-basin water diversions and transfer except where they contribute to conservation.

10. We support that water rights can't be lost due to non-use without the consent of the water right holder.

11. We oppose increase in water right application fees.

12. We support the continuation of Western water law.

13. We support that permit exempt wells shall maintain the following:

a. Providing water for livestock (no gallon per day limit or acre restriction)



b. Watering a non-commercial lawn or garden ½ acre or less in size (no gallon per day limit)

c. Providing water for a single use home or group of homes (limited to 5,000 gallons per day)

d. Providing water for industrial purposes, including irrigation (limited to 5,000 gallons per day no acre limit)

14. We support the private citizens' preferential right to claim and hold licenses for the construction or operation of hydroelectric facilities.

15. We oppose fees for water taken from and used on private lands to maintain homes and farms. We support protection of the water rights for farms and private citizens' domestic use.

16. We are opposed to the metering and/or taxation of water wells.

17. We support the preservation of existing water rights in the State of Washington based on the prior appropriations doctrine.

18. Government agencies should recognize riparian water rights in balance with all other water rights.

19. We urge local control of water resource management.

20. We support a process for making water resource decisions on a watershed-by-watershed basis, based on peer reviewed science.

21. We urge all water users to use equipment designed for maximum efficiency.

22. We urge allowing conserved water to be used on adjacent land.

23. We encourage use of reclaimed water.

24. We encourage the Washington State Legislature to adopt a water banking system.

25. Water right applications must be processed and finalized within three years.

26. We support transfer of municipal water between communities and/or PUD's.

27. We oppose the breaching of dams that are still properly maintained and productive.

28. We support the creation of water retention facilities in the headwaters of river drainage to recharge upstream aquifers, provide for silt retention, and steady stream flows.

29. We support dredging of Columbia and Snake Rivers for barge traffic above Bonneville Dam and adjacent port facilities to a 14-foot shipping depth.

30. We recommend the Army Corp of Engineers and the Department of Ecology implement, as soon as possible, the facilitation of restorative dredging of rivers prone to flooding.

31. We recommend that people who collect storm runoff water on their own property and rain catching systems retain the rights to the water saved as a result of their efforts and expense without metering or taxation.

32. We support participation in local watershed management.

33. We request the Glines Canyon Dam and its beautiful Lake Mills not be destroyed.

34. We support hydropower as a renewable resource.

35. We oppose any effort of any government authority to expand their powers regarding navigable waters of the USA.

36. We support desalination of saltwater for potable water.

Water Quality

1. We support adequate state funding to support local efforts to protect water quality and solve water supply problems without mandates.

2. We believe the local conservation districts should be the lead agency in providing technical assistance to landowners in water and habitat-related improvement programs.

3. We believe the most effective and least costly methods of conserving water quality are the voluntary programs

carried out by local conservation districts.

4. We believe all water quality regulations should be based on current peer reviewed scientific data.

5. We support realistic groundwater standards.

6. We oppose any effort to expand the scope or powers of the Puget Sound Partnership.

7. We urge the Legislature to allocate ten percent of Priority 3 Timber Tax Funds to be used specifically for water quality, improvements and erosion projects. Funds should be distributed locally by the County Treasurer to the local Conservation District.

8. We believe large sewage operator's effluent should be treated on-site to remove all contaminants and be further treated through groundwater filtration before being discharged.

9. We believe that well-maintained on-site septic systems are a safe and effective means of disposing of human waste.

10. We believe it is the responsibility of local government to install the extension of the public sewage system within the public right-of-way, and not the responsibility of the property owners.

11. We believe that when any state or federal agency that finds fecal coliform sampling results indicate a risk to human or environmental health, that the agency must first determine the likely sources before mandating local action.

12. We support changes that allow septic system owners to:

a. Make timely reports on the status of their system; and

b. Immediately repair failed systems.

13. We do not support the EPA's Waters of the US proposal as currently written.

Riparian Areas & Flooding

1. We support RCW 76.09.280, "Removal of Log and Debris Jams from Streams," should be diligently applied to all creeks and streams throughout the entire State of Washington to remove the threat of future disastrous floods of the nature of the December 2007 flood in Southwest Lewis County.

2. We support legislation to remove the requirement for Riparian Management Zones (RMZ) throughout the entire State of Washington on all creeks, streams and rivers on all private and public lands.

3. We support the ability of multiple counties to form a flood control district.

4. We support the creation of water retention facilities in the headwaters of river drainages to manage flood control.

5. We urge that landowners who have made a long term commitment to the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) be allowed to perform beaver control to protect their riparian buffers and adjoining lands.

6. We opposed funding for the Puget Sound near Shore Ecosystem Restoration Projects **that would limit the ability of agricultural producers to farm productive land.**

Bonneville Power Administration

1. We support BPA as the lead agency for marketing and delivering Federal power, provided that:

a. BPA offers cost-based contracts for wholesale power that allow local preference utilities to manage the federal resource in the most beneficial manner.

b. BPA reduces non-essential programs and cuts cost so that its wholesale power resources remain competitive.

c. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) policies don't interfere with BPA's operation of the regional transmission system.

d. BPA is responsive to public/ratepayer concerns and the public's concerns are reviewed on a regular basis.

e. BPA operate under transmission policies that recognize the characteristics of the multipurpose Columbia River Power System.

2. We oppose any move toward making BPA imposing market-based rates and support cost-based rates.

3. The Grange, in the spirit and history of its fight to promote low-cost power to the residents of Washington State, joins with Consumer-Owned Utilities and



residential ratepayers in a unified effort to ensure BPA keeps its wholesale rates at a reasonable rate.

4. We support the efforts of the Northwest Coalition for Affordable Power and their efforts to reduce and maintain BPA's wholesale power cost.

Federal Columbia River Power System

1. Two-thirds of the electrical power generated by the Columbia River Power System is used in Washington, making it the foundation of our States' economy and our best hope for sustainable rural electric development. We support continued operation of this economical, clean, renewable resource and the following provisions:

a. Continuation of postage stamp transmission rates throughout the region.

b. Continuation of preference for non-profit public utilities for the output of the hydro system as established by existing laws.

c. A cost effective and biologically effective regional commitment to fish

and wildlife enhancement.

d. Regional control of both the hydro system and fish and wildlife programs.

e. Retaining public ownership of the CRPS hydroelectric generation facilities.

f. Regional preference and the preservation of the benefits of the FCRPS for the Northwest.

2. We support updating hydroelectric facilities at federal dams to increase efficiencies and provide greater fish and wildlife protection.

Energy Resources

1. We support the development of conservation and energy efficiency programs, co-generation and renewable resources provided that any incremental costs associated with the resources are not shifted to consumers who do not

receive the benefits of such resource development.

2. We support the continued research and development of technologies that reduce the environmental impacts of traditional power production provided that costs of such technologies are

not shifted to consumers who do not benefit from the development and implementation of these technologies.

3. We strongly support programs to facilitate disposal and/or recycling of nuclear waste using the best available technology.

4. We strongly urge any proposed retail rate increase be presented to the consumers in a public meeting as close to the center of the service area of the proposed rate increase as practical.

5. We urge that any proposed retail rate increase notification be provided at least 3 billing cycles prior to the date of the rate increase in the billing envelope as a separate page with a headline stating "Proposed Rate Increase" and text

advising how much the increase will be and the justification for it.

6. We urge that all utility companies raising rates based on a source rate increase be required to lower rates just as efficiently when the source rates are lowered.

7. We support the right of utility consumers to refuse the use of smart grid technology at their service location provided that any incremental cost realized by the utility for providing

service to such consumers is borne by such consumers and not subsidized by the utility's consumers who participate in smart grid initiatives.

Magnetic and Electric Fields

1. We recommend that public utilities continue to respond to concerns about electric and magnetic fields by supporting research and maintaining a high level of public information based on science.

Public Utility District Law

1. We urge preservation of the laws allowing public local controlled utilities to form joint operating agencies.

2. We oppose proposals to limit the use of tax exempt financing, which will undermine the ability of local governments to provide essential services.

3. We believe utility assistance to low income citizens should be encouraged as a local, not state-mandated, policy option.

4. We believe that public utilities should have the authority to provide utility services of all types, such as

natural gas and telecommunications.

Regulations of the Electric Utility Industry

1. Regulations will impact utilities differently depending on the ownership, size of the utility, geographic area served, rate structure, customer density, industrial load and other factors. Because of these differences, local control

becomes even more important. Federal and State laws should take local control into consideration and avoid mandates which may work in some areas but not in others.

2. Congress should also provide assurance that the disparity which causes rural areas to pay higher rates than urban areas do not become wider than they are today.

3. The states, not the FERC, should retain the authority to design and implement Regional Transmission Systems (ROS) and Standard Market Design (SMD).

4. We urge that the FERC allow our region to develop an alternative approach to strengthening operating the regional transmission system that addresses our unique needs and does not expose Northwest citizens to increased risks and costs.

Cooperatives

The Grange recognizes that cooperatives can assume many forms and provide benefits to their member-owners in widely differing business and service sectors. The Grange has always encouraged the formation of new cooperatives and we feel that cooperative businesses can be highly beneficial to all who participate. The Washington State Grange recognizes that the cooperative business model can be a tremendous force for achieving economic development in our rural communities. The State Grange encourages its members to actively participate in cooperative ventures of all types, both existing cooperatives

and emerging co-ops, to promote the economic well-being of all regions of our state.

1. We support the Capper-Volstead Act that has made agricultural cooperatives possible.

2. We encourage domestic marketing cooperatives to initiate joint ventures and to expand activities in international markets, including assisting developing countries in the purchase of U.S. farm commodities. We further urge the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) continue to work closely with these cooperatives in creating new and expanded markets for our agricultural products worldwide.

3. We encourage public and private schools and colleges to include information about cooperatives in

business courses, and to take an active part in promoting information and education regarding agriculture and cooperatives in school textbooks and with the general public.

4. We urge that cooperatives consider mergers and joint ventures as ways to facilitate better services and cost Savings for their member-owners.

5. We support the activities of the Northwest Cooperative Development Center in forming new cooperatives and assisting existing cooperatives.

6. We encourage cooperative board members and personnel to attend training sessions to enhance the quality of products and services they provide to their member-owners.

7. The Washington State Grange shall work closely with the Board of Directors

or Commissioners of all rural electric cooperatives and public utility districts and their state associations regarding the impacts of federal and state climate change policies and promotion of farm based renewable energy development.

8. We recommend increased networking and mutual support between all cooperatives and their organizations for the purpose of unified lobbying, coordination of training, formation of new cooperatives, and dissemination of educational materials about cooperatives to the general public. We also support the work of the National Cooperation Business Association and the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives on the national level.

9. We recognize the cooperative business model can be a tremendous force for achieving economic development in our rural communities. The State Grange

encourages its members to actively participate in cooperative ventures of

all types, both existing cooperatives and emerging co-ops, in order to promote the economic well-being of all regions of our state. We commend the efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to promote cooperative ventures as a means of rural business development in Washington State and we urge that increased funds be allocated for this purpose.

10. We support deployment of broadband telecommunications technology in all rural areas of the state.

We feel that local member-controlled cooperatives could be the best vehicle for providing broadband services for rural residents.

11. We support creation of a small farm poultry co-op to utilize WSDA approved equipment at one location to

be used by participating farms. We also feel that small farmers producing other commodities could be helped by similar cooperatives.

12. We support existing tax exemptions for nonprofit cooperative credit unions.

13. We recommend that electric cooperatives also receive incentives for the development and use of renewable resources and clean energy technologies.

14. We encourage WSU to keep research and classroom instruction on cooperatives as a part of its ongoing program.

15. We ask that the National Grange promote education about cooperatives in elementary, secondary and higher education.

16. We encourage each Grange to have a program about cooperatives to educate the members and community.

Education

The Washington State Grange believes that a strong educational system is the cornerstone of our society. We continue to promote the teaching of American Civics in our educational system as well as Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) which remain essential components in our education curriculum. We encourage all students to acquire a basic knowledge of agriculture in the curriculum, using tools such as Ag in



the Classroom. It is important that all students have access to these programs and career opportunities. We believe that the involvement of parents and the community as a whole can be an asset to our schools and our students' ability and desire to achieve. We support Grange members as we continue to volunteer in our schools and communities, including Words for Thirds dictionary program, food banks, school supplies, tutoring, 4-H and FFA. As an advocate for the family, we support parental participation in the educational process of our children.

Agricultural/Vocational

1. We support Ag in the Classroom.
2. We urge agriculture be integrated into environmental education programs in science curricula.

3. We recommend vocational agriculture courses be given high priority in both secondary and post-secondary public school curriculum.

4. Trade school opportunities for high school students and graduates should be

increased.

5. We encourage high schools and colleges to include information about cooperatives in business courses.

6. We urge Centralia Community College to reinstate a comprehensive learning course and degree program in agricultural-based studies.

Funding

1. We believe the Washington State Legislature has a constitutional obligation to provide adequate and stable funding for basic education needs (to include reading, language arts, science, technology, engineering, mathematics and any other education programs or requirements mandated by state law) of students in all districts of the state so school districts do not need to rely on excess property tax levies for any basic needs.

2. We support fair funding for programs such as FFA, 4H, vocational agriculture and other vocational programs.

3. We urge that funds managed by the Workforce Training and Education



Coordinating Board be equally distributed to rural areas as well as urban areas.

4. We favor a state cost-sharing program for drivers' education.

5. We urge all school transportation funding be based on actual miles traveled.

6. We support rural schools, oppose their closure and believe that operation and control should remain local regardless of the funding source.

7. Educational Service Districts should be fully maintained and efficiently operated

8. We oppose any efforts to change annexation laws that may limit funding for rural areas.

9. We support the 50 percent majority, the 40 percent validation requirement and the 10 percent levy lid in all school bond and levy issues.

10. We oppose the use of public tax dollars for private schools. 11. We oppose state and local taxation for hot lunch sales by school districts.

12. We believe that the scoring of the student assessments should be done in state.

13. We support funds from State Lottery Profits not already dedicated to state bonds be used for education instruction.

14. We support the National Grange policy on federal funding for all federally mandated education programs such as No Child Left Behind.

15. We support WSU Extension program and ask for it to have the same consideration and support as all other programs at WSU.

Programs

1. We believe programs for gifted children should be funded by the state.

2. We believe programs for drug education should be funded by the state.

3. We believe that programs for education on prevention and handling of bullying of adults and children be funded by the state.

4. We support making sign language classes available to all students with the option of using sign language as a foreign language credit.

5. We support Charter Schools.

6. We support adequate funding for Washington Talking Book and Braille Library Services.

7. We support the current level of funding for home school students and



support the right to continued home schooling in this state in accordance with current Washington State Law.

School Zones

1. We believe School Zone notification shall be signed "Speed Limit 20 MPH When Lights Flashing"

with two amber lights when children are present.

Teaching Standards

1. We oppose the implementation of common core standards.

2. We support phonics as the primary method of teaching reading and writing skills.

3. We oppose Outcome-Based Education programs that focus attention away from teaching basic skills and emphasize the teaching of social and moral ideals.

4. We believe all high schools should meet the requirements for graduation set by the United States Secretary of Education

5. We believe the pledge of allegiance should be mandatory to open each day for all our schools.

6. We oppose student proficiency exams and standardized assessments as a graduation requirement.

7. We oppose excessive standardized testing K-8.

8. We support individual school

districts evaluating district curriculum to meet consistent educational objectives.

9. We support the teaching of basic skills curriculum at all grade levels to meet specific goals as approved by local boards of education.

10. We believe grade school children should be able to do basic mathematics before being allowed to use calculators in school.

11. We recommend that all schools establish STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) curriculum exposing students to career possibilities.

12. We encourage all schools to include basic agricultural subjects in their STEM curriculum.

13. We believe alcohol beverage signs should be covered when a high school event is being held in any public stadium.

14. We believe that the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution should be taught and displayed in our schools.

15. We believe that civics should be taught throughout the educational system. Civics education, understanding of the past and the possibilities of our future, should not be neglected.

16. We believe students should not be forced to choose between school sponsored extracurricular activities and responsibilities to their families.

Students' grades should not depend upon their participation in activities outside the regular day.

17. We believe that all schools in the Washington public education system be required to instruct all capable students in developing handwriting skills by fourth grade and these skills be reinforced through twelfth grade.

18. We believe that no class shall be larger than 24 students to 1 instructor.

Higher Education

1. We oppose public higher education institutions basing tuition rates on a student's course of study. We support lawmakers in their pursuit to ban differential tuition in Washington and

across the Nation.

General Issues

1. We urge the U.S. Department of Education to require installation and maintenance of adequate carbon monoxide detectors in all school buildings.

Fish and Wildlife



The Washington State Grange believes in a shared stewardship when it comes to preservation for our fish and wildlife. This preservation should include regulations, the protection of endangered species and the continuation of recovery programs for fish and wildlife. We believe that citizens must not sacrifice property or surrender their U.S. Constitutional rights and that a just compensation should be paid.

Hunting and Fishing Regulations

1. We request the Department of Fish and Wildlife simplify their rules and regulations as printed in respective pamphlets.
2. We ask the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife to research the possibility of a regional multi-state license endorsement.
3. **We encourage lawmakers to establish a 50% discount to all honorably discharged veterans, active duty and reservists stationed in or residing in**

the state of Washington on all hunting and fishing licenses provided they show proof with their military ID, discharge papers (DD214), or their veterans ID card.

4. We support the manufacture and the use of legal steel-jawed traps and we support the interstate transportation and sale of products legally obtained through these traps.
5. We support the use of hounds and baiting as hunting aids to control predator populations.
6. We favor a policy of special hound permits being issued only to those who actually have hounds and will actively pursue the objectives of their permits.
7. We support enforcing severe penalties for poaching.
8. We support an expedited effort to establish criteria for de-listing plants, fish or wildlife from the threatened or endangered list under the "endangered Species Act."
9. We oppose mandatory or mass registration of firearms, firearm owners, ammunition and purchasers of ammunition.
10. We support the right of US citizens to keep and bear arms and will oppose

legislation that threatens or weakens this right.

11. We encourage firearm safety education.

12. We oppose mandatory lock-up of firearms.

13. We support the use and production of lead or lead compound bullets and slugs.

Protected and Endangered Species

1. We support review of the Endangered Species Act in Washington State and that it be revised to include:

a. The endangered species in Washington State is essential to its long term survival on the North American Continent.

b. That equal consideration is given to economic impact, protection of the lives and livelihoods of humans, and the preservation of private property rights.

c. Once a species or class of fish and/or wildlife makes sufficient recovery, it should be de-listed.

d. Once a species or class of predator makes a sufficient recovery it should be delisted and population control be maintained by licensed hunters.

2. We support the National Endangered Species Act Reform, giving support to scientific and commercial data.

3. We support delisting the wolf as an endangered species in Washington State.

4. We oppose the planting and relocation of wolves and grizzly bears in the State of Washington and the establishment of wildlife corridors to protect them.

5. We oppose breeding of wolf dogs.

6. We oppose any new federal marine sanctuaries within the state of Washington.

7. We urge revision of the Marine Mammals Protection Act to exclude harbor seals and California sea lions.

8. We support the right of all persons and landowners to protect themselves and their property, including all pets and domestic animals from a predator regardless if that predator is on an endangered species list or not. We believe it is important to work with other agricultural organizations to address and correct the inadequacies of WDFW proposed agricultural exemptions of critical habitat areas.

9. We encourage the United States Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) to only include public lands as critical habitat areas to protect the Mazama Pocket Gopher. In addition, we strongly recommend that the USFWS provide safe harbor for livestock grazing activities within critical habitat boundaries.

10. We encourage more awareness of environmental policies designed to help recovery and prevent further depletion of wild stock in our state.

Salmon Recovery

1. We support an unbiased, reasonable, scientifically based plan to mitigate the effects of hydroelectric operations on fish. This plan should also consider the positive effects of hydroelectric projects.

2. We oppose drawdowns and spills due to the lack of scientific data demonstrating true benefit to salmon recovery efforts and the damage these measures inflict upon our agricultural and transportation systems.

3. We support artificial transport of juvenile salmon and other methods of facilitating migration of fish past dams.

4. We favor retention of all hydroelectric power-producing dams. We oppose removal of any dam in the Columbia and Snake River systems.

5. We support curtailment of drift net fishing on the high seas by all nations and would ask for total elimination of drift nets.

6. We support sound harvest management practices, including:

a. Protect our fisheries from foreign commercial harvest within 200 miles of our shoreline, unless the 200-mile limit conflicts with the national boundaries of

other countries.

7. We endorse the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife for their enhancement of salmon stream rehabilitation and restoration and urge continuing hatchery propagation. We support and encourage the use of remote site incubation boxes.

8. We support voluntary habitat restoration efforts by private landowners such as those promoted by the conservation districts.

9. We support stricter oversight of how salmon enhancement funds are spent and greater accountability to the public.

a. Prior to beginning a project, groups must identify the proposed benefits at each site with an estimated timeline at which those benefits are expected to appear.

b. Once a project has been completed, monitoring must be performed by the grantee to demonstrate whether or not the proposed benefits were achieved during the estimated timeline, and report the results to the public.

10. We support use of spawned out salmon carcasses as a food source near remote site incubators and smolt release sites.

11. We support the creation of a Wild Salmonid Policy that is compatible with

natural resource based industries.

12. We support river dredging to prevent flooding and damage to spawning grounds.

13. We oppose measures that establish unnecessary stream bank setbacks without just compensation.

14. We oppose the reduction in the legal size of adult Coho Salmon and leave it at 22 inches.

15. We support fair Columbia River salmon management over reallocation of the majority of the harvest to recreational fishing.

16. We support commercial gillnet fishing on the mainstream of the Columbia River where it's managed with gear type and timing to protect endangered wild salmon and steelhead.

Wild Steelhead Recovery

1. We support a catch and release policy of wild steelhead by Washington sport anglers.

2. We encourage education of environmental policies designed to help recovery and prevent further depletion of wild steelhead stocks in our state.

3. We support the creation of a wild steelhead policy that is compatible with natural resources-based industries.



4. We support hatchery propagation of steelhead.

General Issues

1. We support the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife as a stand-alone department.

2. We encourage education of fish propagation programs for school children K-12.

3. We support a State Fish and Wildlife Commission composed of one residing member from each of the State's game regions (six) and one member to be selected at large for a total of seven (7) members. We further support one member being an agricultural producer.

4. We recognize the potential of livestock

grazing to enhance forage resources for the benefit of wildlife and implement managed grazing where appropriate.

5. We recommend that locator beacons be used by a person hiking in the wilderness areas of our nation, including national forests and national parks, and that the hiker be responsible for the fair and reasonable cost of this item.

6. We oppose any legislative support for the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y).

7. We encourage the Department of Fish and Wildlife to hold at least one hearing in an area that has proposed new regulations on problem game animals.

8. We believe that should the landowner

prevail in a damage claim with the Department of Fish and Wildlife the claim and any cost incurred in proving this claim be paid to the landowner.

9. We support individual property rights and the harvest of shellfish on private and public tidelands, as the law should be applied equally to all persons. We urge vigorous defense of all citizens to protect and harvest shellfish.

10. We support all efforts to remove seals and sea lions from the Columbia River, including tribal and public hunting.

11. We support the suspension of the Selkirk Elk Herd Management Plan in Game Unit 204. Future wildlife plans should involve property owners and managers.

Health Care and Safety

The Washington State Grange is committed to ensuring access to high quality health care services for all citizens. We support policies that allow choices in the kinds of services and providers accessible to citizens. It is important that we also continue working to improve funding for the hearing impaired. Additionally, adequate screening, qualified teachers, and interpreters are essential. We support child and family issues, such as strict definition of child abuse and adoption rules and continued funding of community networks. The Washington State Grange believes that public health and safety remains essential, especially to have strict food safety standards, support education on the dangers of drugs, alcohol, tobacco and marijuana, and urge safety education for all bicyclists.

Health Care Services

1. We support health care reform that allows all citizens access to health care services regardless of age, race, gender, income, health condition or location.

2. We support incentive programs to reward medical providers who practice in rural areas.

3. We support policies to improve the

quality of health care services available to rural citizens.

4. We support a rural hospital policy which does not compromise the authority of local hospital commissioners regarding budget, services available, or the management of the facility. The standards for a license to operate a rural hospital should address the appropriate capital investment for small, lower volume facilities. If universal acceptance is required of rural hospitals, there must be matching financial support.

5. We urge better and more efficient health care services for all veterans.

6. We support the establishment of rehabilitation centers in Veterans Administration hospitals to address substance abuse issues.

7. We support full disclosure of the cost of common prescription drugs.

8. We encourage legislation to address issues encountered by Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers, including financial support that would allow Alzheimer's patients to stay in their own homes.

9. We urge federal and state laws concerning private medical information allow medical practitioners to release or disclose limited medical information when necessary to contact relatives or others needed to authorize treatment.

10. We support legislation that corrects the inadequacies to the student-to-nurse

ratio in our public schools and that we meet the minimum federal guidelines for student-to-nurse ratio.

11. We support the establishment of health care centers one hundred miles or more from major veteran medical facilities.

Insurance

1. We support a voluntary form of health care insurance which allows individuals to choose the benefit package which best suits their needs and gives them the opportunity to select the medical provider and facility of their choice.

2. We support a health care reform policy that minimizes the level of government involvement. This would include a statewide health care pool available to both individuals and businesses.

3. We oppose the imposition of any mandate requiring individual small business and self-employed to purchase/provide health care benefits for their employees.

4. We urge Congress to maintain adequate access for patients in Part B Medicare Plan.

Prescription Drugs

1. We urge a requirement that pharmacists print dosage instructions and simple diagnosis on all prescriptions.

2. We oppose any proposals from the

Food and Drug Administration changing our present laws or creating more governmental regulations that would revoke the right of Americans to take safe, natural supplements without having to obtain them in limited quantities or by means of a prescription.

Professional Conduct

1. We support limited liability for medical professionals as a way to contain health care costs.

2. We believe doctors should be required to inform patients of alternatives before conducting major surgeries.

3. We believe persons convicted of abusing nursing home residents should be subject to severe criminal and civil penalties.

4. We support the disclosure of family medical histories to adopted persons in order to better determine medical diagnoses and treatment.

Deaf Issues

1. We recommend that the month of May, which is designated as Better Hearing Month, emphasize hearing loss prevention.

2. We support mandatory hearing tests with regular check-ups for children from birth to five years of age.

3. We support adequate funding for the Washington School for the Deaf.

4. We urge 911 and Enhanced 911 operators and emergency crisis center workers have TDD (Telecommunication Device for the Deaf) and TTY telecommunication device training.

5. We recommend that harassment occurring within the deaf community be brought to the attention of law enforcement authorities.

6. We recommend that professionally certified teachers from Centers for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing be included in state programs for clients receiving assistance.

7. We support mandating that hospitals in the state of Washington be equipped with infant hearing screening instruments and each newborn should be screened for hearing problems before they leave the hospital.

8. We request the Department of Motor Vehicles be required to note

deafness or significant hearing loss of individual on their drivers' license.

9. Schools with hearing-impaired students should be required to hire only sign language interpreters meeting qualification standards set forth by the Registry of Interpreters.

10. We believe Medicare should provide at least one-third coverage for hearing aids.

Public Health & Safety

1. We support an exemption of health permit fees for nonprofit organizations.

2. We urge strict food safety standards and strict enforcement of these standards.

3. We support the establishment of master gauges and standards set for testing gauges on all pressure devices.

4. We urge strict standards to ensure all canning jars and lids are of good quality and resistant to moisture and rust.

5. We oppose requiring restaurants to list nutrition information on their menus.

6. We encourage lawmakers to license and regulate body piercing and tattooing.

7. We support limiting dioxin content and requiring a warning label for products exceeding that limit.

8. We support a public education campaign on the dangers of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana.

9. We urge electronic cigarettes be treated the same as cigarettes, cigars and pipes regarding smoking in public places.

10. We urge parents and schools to improve safety education for bicyclists. We urge enforcement and penalties for cyclists who violate the rules of the road.

11. We support broadcasting companies limiting advertisements of alcohol and tobacco products.

12. We support drug-free workplaces.

13. We recommend the Washington State Department of Health require public entities to provide a sanitary means of exiting restrooms.

14. We recommend that the Washington Department of Health issue residential kitchens with a license to process food for public consumption and operate as commercial kitchens.

15. We encourage property owners to conduct self-inspections of on-site septic systems.

16. We believe that service animals need to have a universal identifiable tag, collar, or coat that indicates it is a service animal.

17. We oppose mandatory water fluoridation in any public water supply.

18. We support the inclusion of the Governor, all legislators, and public officials in the Washington State Patrol's random drug testing program.

19. We recommend that indoor tanning businesses be licensed, inspected, and required to provide customers facts about skin cancer risks from exposure to ultra-violet light.

20. We support a revision to the Food Safety Modernization Act that would remove the burden to U.S. Producers.

21. We support the right of any individual to choose for themselves and their dependents what foods and medicines they will or will not use, free of government interference, as long as the individual accepts full responsibility for their choices.

Child & Family Issues

1. We support specific guidelines to ensure that legal authorities prevent the return of children to an unsatisfactory environment.

2. We support increasing the penalty for false accusations of child abuse from a misdemeanor to a Class C Felony.

3. We support the establishment of a strict statutory definition of child abuse to avoid cases of wrongful accusation and to promote the full prosecution of those truly guilty of abuse.

4. We urge a strict definition of the duties of Child Protective Services (CPS) and other social service agencies. We support legislative oversight in the adoption of new rules by these agencies.

5. We support allowing our teachers to set and maintain disciplinary standards at school in order to create a good learning atmosphere.

6. We support continued funding of Community Networks.

7. We encourage television stations to avoid scheduling programs that glorify sex, violence, murder, or offensive language during children's viewing hours.

8. We support a video and game rating system.



State and National Issues



The Washington State Grange believes that every community benefits from a viable economy, wholesome family living space, and a sense of community pride. We believe strong communities can be maintained through shared responsibility in local concerns. We must guard against the temptation to believe that the government can best solve all problems. We support all efforts to develop leadership and problem solving at the most local level such that strong family units and a commitment to community service is preserved.

Annexation of Cities and Towns

1. We urge that state law should be changed to ensure the following provisions:

a. All property owners shall have an equal right to vote on annexation.

b. An outside utility agreement may not be used as a vote or counted as a signature on a petition for annexation.

c. 65 percent approval of property owners should be required to approve an annexation.

Elections

1. We support limits on campaign expenditures and contributions.

2. We oppose term limits on federal elected officials until such time that all 50 states adopt similar policy.

3. We support the voters' right to vote for any candidate of their choice for each office in the primary.

4. We support at-large voting with single-member districts in the primary.

5. We believe that the Washington State Top Two Primary Election System should be formally called "The Grange Style Primary."

6. We oppose voter registration by party, party declarations at the primary, lists of voters by party and separate ballots for each political party.

7. We recommend that anyone who signs a petition dealing with an issue impacting a designated county must be a permanent resident and registered voter in that county or be a registered voter of the state who owns real property in the county.

8. We urge that all voter registrations be accompanied by proof of U.S. Citizenship.

9. We support legislation that requires the State of Washington to pay for the costs of election recounts for statewide or multi-county elected offices.

10. We support a change in state law that all elected offices at a level below state, with the exception of Precinct Committee Officers, be nonpartisan.

11. We oppose election-day voter registration.

12. We oppose any legislation that weakens or eliminates the citizen's current initiative process.

13. We strongly support partial public financing of state and federal campaigns.

14. We support the Nebraska/Maine plan of allocating electoral votes on the basis of congressional district results.

15. We ask the State of Washington

not conduct the Presidential Primary Election unless the major political parties agree to use 100% of the votes cast by the voting public for their candidates.

16. We urge Washington State to stop spending public money to run a closed, political party line, primary election which disenfranchises the voter who does not want to declare a political party affiliation.

17. We support revisions as needed of voter registration policies and procedures and the maintenance of rolls of registered voters.

18. We oppose any movement to change the current method of electing the President of the United States by the Electoral College.

19. We support legislation to limit the announcement by news media of any election before all votes are cast.

20. We support changing judicial elections to follow Arizona's merit system of appointing judges.

21. We believe that precinct committee officer elections should be paid for by the political parties.

a. We support Federal campaign disclosure that provides the names of persons who are the top donors to independent political committee advertisements.

b. We support legislation to change the Washington State Constitution to require a two thirds majority of both houses of the legislature and the approval of the governor to override the vote of the people following the passage of an initiative.

c. We believe that all registered voters, regardless of residency, vote for and elect county commissioners in each county commissioner district, and we support changes to state law so that the registered voters of each county commissioner district shall elect from among their own number, each county commissioner.

d. We support changes to the special election filing dates in order to allow filers of failed special elections measures time to revise requests before refileing for the next election.

e. We believe it should be required that when gathering signatures for a statewide



initiative not less than six percent (6%) of the signatures be gathered in at least twenty-six (26) counties and/or two-thirds (2/3) of legislative districts in the State of Washington.

Criminal Justice

1. We support a system of justice which promises swift and sure punishment for crimes of violence, especially crimes against children.

2. We believe judges should be free to sentence as severely as they see fit, and support a minimum sentence level requirement for serious crimes.

3. We believe that when a convicted criminal appeals, all issues that are known should be included in one appeal, or be lost, to eliminate multiple appeals at taxpayers' expense.

4. We urge those arrested for drug related crimes be tried within a short time.

If convicted, their personal assets should be subject to seizure for restitution to any victim involved in that specific crime.

5. We believe citizens who use deadly force in the face of perceived threat in the defense of their home should be immune from civil and criminal actions.

6. We support the power of death row

inmates to resign their right to appeal.

7. We support the inclusion of vehicular homicide resulting from driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol, as a Class A felony.

8. We oppose plea-bargaining and urge all criminals face the courts as charged.

9. We support changing the insanity defense from a "Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity" to a "Guilty but Insane." Individuals found guilty but insane under this law would be placed in a mental institution until they are found

competent and, at that time, they would be incarcerated for their full sentence.

10. We support anti-stalking legislation where evidence shows criminal intent.

11. We support prison programs that teach responsibility to society, a strong work ethic, and a sense of self-discipline with physical labor on parks, roads and other public projects.

12. We support stronger enforcement of existing laws and penalties against domestic violence beginning with the first offense.

13. We favor aggravated first degree murder charges be applied to cases when the original crime leads directly or

indirectly to the death of a police officer or firefighter.

Juvenile Justice

1. We recommend increasing parental right and responsibility over minors by:

a. Enabling parents of habitual runaways to place the runaway in a safe facility for as many as 180 days.

b. Requiring the shelters to notify parents or guardians of a runaway child within a reasonable time, not to exceed eight hours after the identity of the child is known.

2. We support changing juvenile justice laws requiring a juvenile's legal guardian or attorney to be present before a juvenile is questioned in relation to a crime.

3. We support allowing juvenile records to be admissible in court if the individual is charged with a crime in the future.

4. We support boot camp style and skill training work camps for juveniles who are convicted of crimes except a Class A felony.

5. We support stronger penalties for teen offenders convicted of any crime beginning with the first offense. 6. We encourage the Legislature to support the creation of teen courts.

7. We ask the State of Washington to continue to operate and fund the Naselle Youth Camp.

Federal Government Operations

1. We support English as the official language of our state and nation.

2. We believe the federal government should continue searching for information on POWs (prisoners of war) and MIAs (missing in action) and open their files to immediate family members.

3. We oppose implementation of any border-crossing fee for citizens traveling legally across the Canadian border.

4. We favor adequate staffing of border patrol personnel at international points of entry.

5. We urge the annual federal deficit be curbed by every means possible, including: less bureaucracy (fewer federal employees); more efficient spending; and limits on the number of new federal programs introduced.

6. We urge adequate attention be given to prompt reduction of the national debt.

7. We support placing a high priority upon our nation's defense when drafting the federal budget and that those agencies be held accountable for efficient use of those funds.

8. We support elimination of federal subsidies to any product that carries an FDA or Surgeon General's warning that the product could be hazardous to our health.

9. We urge any federal budget surplus be paid first to the Social Security fund, then applied to the national debt, thereby reducing the annual interest.

10. We urge Congress to protect the Social Security Fund, thereby keeping it solvent for the purpose it was created.

11. We urge an amendment to the constitution of the United States that protects the recitation of:

a. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, which shall be: "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

b. The use of the national motto, which shall be: "IN GOD WE TRUST."

c. That the name of God should be retained on our currency and kept in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

12. We support legislation requiring all financial institutions to have a secure

method, such as shredding, for disposing of all printed financial information.

13. We support federal funding of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

14. We oppose trade agreements that do not have positive benefits for our country and that no agreements shall be made that compromise national security or national sovereignty.

15. We oppose the Next Generation Air Transportation System Financing Reform Act.

16. We support legislation that fully funds Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT).

17. We support legislation that reauthorizes the Secure Rural Schools and Communities Self Determination Act (SRSCA), while working on a long term solution for rural forest counties and schools.

18. We request that Congress recognize the balance of powers between the Federal and State Governments established in the 10th Amendment to the Constitution by delegating any functions to the state that can be more effectively performed and regulated at the local level.

19. We believe Congress should make no law that provides special treatment to members of Congress.

20. We continue to support Equal Right Amendment (ERA) at all levels of government.

Holidays

1. We support reinstating the observance of February 22 as a national holiday to honor our nation's first president, George Washington.

2. We believe the first Monday of each August should be designated as Anna Eleanor Roosevelt Day to honor a fellow Grange member as a lifelong humanitarian.

3. We oppose any effort to change V.J. (Victory over Japan) Day to End of the War in the Pacific Day.

Immigration

1. We support setting immigration qualifiers that focus on an individual's job skills and character so as to strengthen and build the American economy.

3. We support a tough but fair pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants currently living in the United States that is contingent on securing our borders

5. We believe individuals, groups or agencies that sponsor immigrants

to this country for residency should be responsible for providing food, shelter, school and medical assistance for the first five years of residency, excluding the agricultural guest worker program.

6. We believe that babies born on U.S. soil of parents who are illegal immigrants should not be automatically granted U.S. citizenship.

7. We urge the Legislature to enact restrictions on eligibility for in-state tuition for non-resident aliens.

8. We support a plan for the State of Washington to issue a driver's license with different colors or features for non-citizens who can produce verifiable information.

9. We oppose any and all forms of illegal immigrant amnesty.

Insurance

1. We believe a Proof of Premise Liability Certificate be required of those who operate adult care facilities.

2. We support the classification of nursing home insurance premiums as a fully deductible annual cost of doing business.

3. We support prohibiting the Department of Licensing from issuing vehicle licenses to owner/users that cannot show proper proof of insurance on their vehicles.

4. We support legislation requiring motorcyclists to carry liability insurance when traveling on public highways.

5. We believe insurance companies should be required to send checks exceeding \$500 as return receipt mail.

6. We encourage transparency in pricing formulas of insurance companies that provide automobile insurance in the State of Washington.

Labor

1. We oppose hiring quotas and support a system in which all job applicants are treated equally and hired on the basis of experience, aptitude, past performance, attitude and other personal qualifications.

2. We support a process whereby applicants contesting a hiring may appeal to a nonpartisan committee for an unbiased opinion.

3. We believe parents and their teens should make decisions regarding teenage labor and oppose any rules or regulations limiting the ability of parents and teens to make such decisions.

4. We oppose the state's extension of mandated interest arbitration for law enforcement officers to small local governments (cities with populations of 2,500 and counties with populations of 10,000).

5. We support reinstating the Civilian Conservation Corps on the state level to allow our state's youth the opportunity to become responsible and healthy individuals.

6. We oppose any attempt to limit the ability of employers to have meetings with their employees.

7. We support the secret ballot for unionization elections.

Miscellaneous

1. We support the continuation of the State Fire Marshal's office and county fire marshals for their assistance in arson investigations.

2. We urge festival seating at rock concerts be banned to prevent deaths and injuries resulting from uncontrolled crowds.

3. We support a statewide public education campaign to promote the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio service. We urge widespread acquisition of weather radios.

4. We support a requirement that all sales receipts be issued in ink guaranteed not to fade for at least five years and urge proprietors to replace their ink cartridges before the type becomes unreadable.

5. We support legislation that would require banks to notify customers of service charges for ATM use on screen at the time of the transaction.

6. We oppose the sale and consumption of hard liquor in general admission areas of any public sports arena.

7. We support legislation eliminating deceptive sweepstakes letters.

8. We oppose the use of any low level radioactive waste materials in any products.

9. We support extending the notice provisions of state law now applicable to improvements to owner occupied residences to similar improvements to agricultural structures on the same property.

10. We oppose any efforts by the Legislature to adopt rent control.

11. We recommend that the historic names of cities, counties and other geographic features be respected and

retained whenever possible.

12. We recommend that Subordinate Granges, at their option, working with appropriate agencies, designate their Grange as an Emergency Shelter.

13. We support laws that would restrict the interest rates charged on credit cards to not more than five percent above prime.

14. We support laws that would make large print and easy to understand terms mandatory on credit card agreements.

15. We oppose any attempt to make the Mount St. Helens National Monument a National Park.

16. We oppose any efforts to limit sponsorships at family oriented events.

17. We ask that Washington State create a plastic concealed handgun permit card including photo, and that renewal notices be sent to concealed handgun permit card holders, and that any increased costs be borne by the applicant.

18. We believe that public, state and/or local funds should not be used to build and/or remodel professional sporting facilities without a public vote.

19. We support the constitutional limitation on the Executive Powers of the President and Governors.

20. We encourage the adoption of a congressional bill that would strike the word "male" and insert "all" in Federal Law (50 U.S.C. App.451 et. seq.) regarding Selective Service.

21. We believe that unclaimed fair premiums should be exempt from the unclaimed property act and funds remain in the fair fund.

22. We urge Congress to adopt rules that would prohibit any member of Congress from accepting contributions or donations from registered lobbyists or their firms that lobby them.

23. We support those individual rights of American Citizens as set forth in the United States Constitution.

24. We oppose the passing of the Wild Olympic Wilderness and Wild Scenic Rivers Act.

25. We urge that current laws dealing with background checks on the purchase of firearms be enforced before any new regulations are enacted.

26. We believe that each cemetery district in the State of Washington should remain a standalone entity. However, should there be a consolidation of a cemetery districts with a different type

taxing district those funds held in reserve by the cemetery district shall be used for capital improvements or land acquisition for the former cemetery district.

27. We support any effort to make Camp Bonneville a State or County park.

28. We support a requirement that all public inspectors conduct inspections within 48 hours of scheduling. If this time frame cannot be met, the inspector must contact the contractor to schedule an inspection to be done within five working days of original scheduling.

29. We believe that rules governing aerial data gathering should apply equally to manned and unmanned platforms and the FFA to regulate drones.

30. We support the elimination of Daylight Savings Time in the State of Washington.

Regulatory Reform

1. We encourage greater legislative oversight in agency rule-making and periodic legislative review of agency rules and regulations to ensure necessity and eliminate duplicated, outdated, or excessively burdensome provisions.

2. We support restrictions on agency rule-making authority and encourage a higher level of public involvement and accountability.

3. We support an increased emphasis upon technical assistance over punitive fines and restrictions.

4. We believe that any citizen or group of citizens that wins a lawsuit in the State of Washington should be compensated by the losing government entity for their legal fees within a 12-month time frame.

5. We support government transparency.

6. We believe that the probate process in Washington State be limited to a period of five years from filing to final decision by the judge.

7. We believe that no Federal employee can halt the harvesting and transporting of any farmer's perishable crop by declaring the crop as "hot goods" without a court order and the grower shall not be required to sign an admission of guilt to proceed with harvest.

Social Security

1. We support the right of individuals to invest a portion of their Social Security contributions in the private market.

State Agency Rules

1. We support legislation that would limit state agencies' ability to write new rules.

2. We request legislation requiring all WACS be reviewed by an appropriate legislative committee to determine if the proposed WACs meet the intent of the written law.

3. We encourage the State of Washington when negotiating contracts for services or supplies that they can ensure they are not paying more than retail or market value for items or services.

should pass the state budget based on the proceeding November economic forecast before considering any other legislation, and we support a constitutional amendment to accomplish this goal.

5. We support legislation that requires applicants for Washington State driver's licenses provide their social security number to obtain a Washington State driver's license.

6. We encourage lawmakers and DOL to make the necessary adjustments in issuing drivers licenses that will allow for those licenses to be used for proper identification in air travel.

7. We support the current practice of the appropriation of funds for all government agencies to remain with the legislative branch of governments at all levels.

8. We believe that when a governmental agency has taken possession of property and the payment of compensation has been received by the owner-seller the purchase and sale agreement has been performed by both parties and the matter is final.

State Government Operations

1. We ask the Governor and his or her administration to utilize the principles of open government, public participation and consideration of personal knowledge and integrity when considering candidates solicited from community and civic organizations for appointments to various boards and commissions.

2. We support legislation outlining the steps necessary to create new county governments when the appropriate signature requirements have been met.

3. We believe all amendments to bills

should be within the scope and object of the bill.

4. We urge the review and repeal of obsolete laws.

5. We support the spending limits spelled out by RCW 43.135.

6. We believe that during a special legislative session the members of the Legislature should not receive any additional funds.

7. We urge the Washington State Legislature to pass legislation making the availability of data in the event data recorder (black box) to only be available with the written permission of the vehicle's registered owner.

8. We believe the State Auditor should conduct an audit of the Redistricting Commission in a timely manner for the legislature to review the audit and the State Auditor should have the ability to seek injunction to challenge the plan if any laws were broken.

Telecommunications

1. We endorse incentives to private businesses, government agencies and private citizens to develop telecommunications services.

2. We support a telecommunications system that offers a common communication path capable of accommodating open, affordable access to all buyers and sellers of the service. This service should maximize the choice of the buyer while enhancing the competition and participation of the sellers.

3. We support the adoption of legislation that will facilitate the process of interconnection of public and private voice, video and internet services at a local level while assuring carriers that interconnect are fully compensated for any use of the facilities.

4. We encourage communities to build and operate their own broadband services.

5. We support public law which allows and encourages consumer groups, municipal corporations and public utility districts to establish or enhance the use of telecommunications facilities.

6. We oppose all proposals or existing laws which are designed to restrict the ability of consumers or communities to create their own telecommunications options.

7. We support allowing satellite

television companies to provide customer access to any specific local channels in the customer's region.

8. We support regulatory oversight of wireless communications as well as other areas of telecommunications by the UTC.

9. We oppose any telecommunication rate increase which creates two-tiered urban and rural rate classes and unfairly increases rural rates higher than urban rates.

Telephone Service

1. We favor adequate payments to local telephone exchange entities from interchange services, both toll and private line, to assure full reimbursement for services rendered by the local entities.

2. We support competition between all telecommunication service providers that will assure reasonable rates, universal service, and infrastructure modernization.

3. We strongly urge establishment of a new, less expensive phone rate for emergency-only telephone service in meeting halls of non-profit organizations.

4. We favor continuation of the Rural Utilities Service Telephone Loan Program.

5. We support legislation and regulatory oversight to assure open access to telecommunications services nationwide, including geographic rate averaging and the Universal Service Fund, which helps rural companies to serve high-cost areas through support derived from long distance companies.

6. We believe interest from the Enhanced-911 account should remain within that account and oppose appropriation of this interest to the General Fund.

7. We support continuation of the state tax to support Enhanced 911. We believe this should also apply to cellular phones.

8. We support legislation to eliminate recorded message telemarketing and telephone solicitation.

9. We urge Congress to pass legislation that would require companies that use generated dialing systems to identify themselves when calling.

10. We support the non-emergency call numbers to inform responsible agencies of lower priority hazards.



11. We support updates and improvements to the '911 System' to allow for text messaging and other digital communications for emergency services.

Welfare Reform

1. We support incentives, rather than penalties, for welfare recipients who are willing and able to work.

2. We oppose tax-supported day care.

3. We oppose the use of school facilities for day care purposes.

4. We support childcare, food, and financial management courses offered through the DSHS and urge that aid

recipients undergo such training to maintain their existing welfare payments.

5. We favor issuing rental payment vouchers instead of cash payments to those in need of housing assistance to avoid mismanagement of these funds.

6. We urge all welfare recipients in this state be required to meet the maximum residency requirement allowed under federal law.

7. We support implementation of a system by which related social service agencies can cross-check with others, in or out of state, to avoid duplicate assistance payments.

8. We support a TANF policy which does not allow for an automatic increase in aid for additional children conceived after the initial application for aid.

9. We support programs allowing welfare recipients to perform community service as a requirement for receiving aid.

10. We support two-parent families and demand both parents be fully responsible, especially economically, for their children.

11. We urge our government to use all sources of information when tracking and enforcing child support obligations.

Taxation

The Washington State Grange recognizes that taxation is both important and necessary to promote and support the welfare of our citizens; and to allow the fiscal operations of our state and local governments. We support a tax system that is designed to encourage the stimulation of economic activity and growth; entrepreneurship and increased job opportunity; and is both fairly administered and not overly burdensome on taxpayers.

Fuel

1. We support tax exemption for special fuels.

2. We support changes in the way special fuel is regulated to decrease evasion.

3. We support the exemption of the fuel tax for farm use.

4. We oppose I-732 carbon emission tax.

General

1. We support tax policies that benefit agriculture.

2. We support an exemption from sales tax on farm equipment sales between farmers.

3. We support sufficient taxation of alcohol **and legal recreational drugs** to pay for **addiction** treatment programs.

4. We support the federal income tax deduction for sales taxes in states that do not impose a state income tax.

5. We support a constitutional cap on

sales tax, B&O tax and property tax.

6. We recommend that latecomer fees be paid to the original developer and calculated the same as public latecomer fees.

7. We support municipal taxes on public utility fees be limited to the rate on private utilities.

8. We support the extension of the federal inheritance tax, with a reasonable inflation factor to be applied periodically to the exclusion amount.

9. We support an exclusion amount for the state inheritance/estate tax that is the same as the exclusion amount for the federal inheritance tax.

10. We oppose the practice of awarding taxpayer-funded attorney fees in cases of civil rights violations where there are no indigent plaintiffs.

11. We oppose all unfunded government mandates as they impose an unfair burden on taxpayers at the local level.

12. We oppose efforts to impose a State Income Tax on the people of Washington State.

13. We support legislation to limit the sales and/or use tax to the actual sales price of the vehicle.

14. We oppose sales taxes for vehicle transfers on motor vehicles.

15. We support legislation to reenact the Glass Steagall Act.

16. We support an amendment to the State Constitution establishing a Permanent Savings Fund into which a small percentage of state revenue will be consistently deposited, with only

the earnings on said fund investments to be available for spending, and with the priority for investing of said funds principal to be in bonds issued by local governments in the State of Washington.

17. We believe that any levy imposed by government agencies for the general welfare be considered a tax and any levy imposed for a service or costs of a regulatory program be considered a fee.

18. We urge lawmakers to refrain from increasing fees simply to increase revenues. Instead we believe the value of the service must be proportionate to the fees established.

19. We support a constitutional amendment to limit the authority of the State Legislature to impose new or increased taxes without either a 2/3 supermajority vote of both houses and the approval of the Governor or an affirmative vote of the people.

20. We support changing tax laws to allow only wage earners, filing with a Social Security Number, authorization to file for Additional Child Tax Credits.

21. We believe that all purchases made in Washington State should be taxed at the point of sale using point-of-sale rates.

Property Tax

1. We support current use valuation of property as opposed to highest and best use valuation.

2. We support an amendment to the Washington State Constitution to base property taxes on the value of the property at the last sale of said property and remain in effect until either the property is devalued by assessment,

changes legal possession or substantial improvement is made to the property, such as a new building or a remodel on the property that requires a building permit.

3. We support property tax exemptions and deferral programs for senior citizens and the disabled.

4. We ask that Social Security Income be excluded to qualify for the senior or disabled person's property tax exemption.

5. We support property tax reform that

includes a 102 percent or lower cap on property tax levies.

6. We support stabilizing the tax revenue of junior taxing districts. Payments in lieu of taxes should be distributed to such districts in the same manner as taxes would be.

7. We support legislation requiring lands purchased by the state **county or city** be subject to payments in lieu of taxes that are equal to the tax payments that would otherwise be due local taxing districts.

8. We ask that if the government claims an easement to or right to use land by adverse possession, the taxes on the remainder of the land should be waived until the fair market value of the easement has been met.

9. We support open space taxation laws.

10. We support legislation requiring a supermajority on all voter approved tax levies.

11. We oppose implementation of a state capital gains tax.

Transportation



The Grange has been a traditional supporter of transportation facility development. Our focus is to assure that the system be designed and operated to benefit all people who may need to use it. We recognize that citizens and our economy benefit from transportation infrastructure that is adequate, modern and matched to our mobility needs across the state.

Aviation

1. We support expanding the capacity of congested airports.

2. We support efforts to identify additional airport locations and alternatives in order to alleviate congested air transportation.

3. We support feeder rail lines into major airfreight hubs.

4. We support common sense laws on the operation of drones.

Alternative Fuels

1. We support continued study of alternative fuels.

2. We support the development of bio-fuels production within the State of Washington from agriculture products grown in the Northwest.

3. We support requiring that petroleum fuels include a percentage of bio- fuels.

4. We support the production of biodiesel and ethanol in the U.S.

5. We do not support the use of corn as a primary source for bio-fuel.

6. We support the voluntary conversion of motor vehicles to natural gas.

Environmental Regulation

1. We urge the WSDOT (Washington State Department of Transportation), county road departments and city street departments to use sparingly all chemicals that leech into the soils of contiguous private property and cause damage.

2. We oppose legislation that would place more restrictions on beach driving in the State of Washington.

3. We ask the WSDOT, county road departments and city street departments to use non-invasive plant species in new road and highway landscape design.

4. We oppose a Washington State Low Carbon Fuel Standard until biofuel alternatives that can be made in the United States have been made available in a commercial marketplace and the cost to consumer is marginal.

Fuel Tax

1. We support a reasonable graduated gasoline tax and/or user fee for funding of highway and bridge construction, and maintenance repair.
2. We oppose a sales tax on gasoline or other motor fuels for any purpose.
3. We urge that a greater percentage of our fuel tax revenue be spent on rural or farm-to-market roads.
4. We support a road use tax for electric and hybrid vehicles.

Funding

1. We support retention of the 18th Amendment to the Washington State Constitution, which dedicates highway fund revenue for highway purposes including the ferry system.
2. We propose federal regulations be relaxed or rescinded to allow individual states to determine priorities for expenditure of federal funds for safety, construction and maintenance of state highways.
3. We believe tolls collected for roads, bridges and tunnels should be used where collected.
4. We oppose tolls as a source of general revenue in the State of Washington.
5. We believe all motor vehicle excise taxes should be used for transportation purposes.
6. We support a reasonable surcharge on studded tires to be paid at the time of purchase, and said funds be dedicated to road repairs.

Improvements

1. We encourage **giving priority to safety upgrades on roadways with high accident rates.**
2. We support increased research for developing better road materials, improved methods of construction and clearer contract provisions with construction firms.
3. We support the improvement of all state highways to a level that will support legal load limits year round.
4. We support the prioritizing of funding for farm-to-market roads.
5. We support voter involvement and approval of any public-private transportation endeavor.
6. We urge the WSDOT to eliminate the use of corrosive de-icer instead use alternate methods that are less harmful to highways and the environment.

7. We support coordination of the transportation system to improve freight mobility.

8. We encourage WSDOT to consider placing new safety rest areas in the median between the directions of travel.

9. We request that the WSDOT post permanent signs prior to highway exits near rest areas advertising free coffee.

10. We urge the WSDOT to develop and promote educational materials for drivers showing the damage done by studded tires and explaining the benefits of newer tire materials and siping.

Pipelines

1. We support the cross state fuel pipelines to facilitate safe, efficient and cost effective movement of petroleum products.



Rail

1. We support the retention and expansion of a rail transportation system in order to relieve pressure on congested highways.
2. We oppose the abandonment of short lines where commodity production adds undue pressure on the highway.
3. We support freight competition between barge lines, railways, trucking and all forms of transportation.
4. We support public ownership of vital rail transportation corridors and facilities that benefit farmers and farm communities.
5. We support the restoration of the rail connection between Colfax and Pullman.

Public Transportation

1. We support the development of economically feasible transportation

systems that encourage people to use public transportation.

Safety

1. We support firm enforcement against driving under the influence.
2. We support strict enforcement of truck safety laws.
3. We support a systematic program to maintain, upgrade and replace bridges in a timely manner.
4. We support use of sand on ice and snow covered roads where the sand is of a size that minimizes damage to vehicles and that has a minimum size greater than 10 microns.
5. We support adequate roadside brush maintenance.
6. We support continuation of the free coffee program, which allows nonprofit organizations to provide free coffee and cookies to travelers on our state's highways, and oppose any efforts to privatize this program.
7. We oppose the use of triple trailer trucks on Washington highways.
8. We recommend that established rest stops with a high traffic volume remain open all year and be maintained.
9. We believe the Washington State Patrol should improve coordination with the Washington State Department of Transportation to more effectively police the safety of rest areas.
10. We support automatic daytime, low-beam headlights or their equivalent on all new motor vehicles.
11. We recommend that traffic laws be enforced to cite drivers who do not observe basic safety codes while in command of their vehicles.
12. We support legislation to establish compatible speed for cars and trucks on primary and interstate highways to allow a smooth flow of traffic.
13. We urge the WSDOT to provide adequate rest parking areas for long-haul truckers.
14. We support legislation that would require auto manufacturers to visibly label dashboards of "black box" (EDR) equipped vehicles.
15. We believe handicap-parking status should be awarded to persons who cannot safely walk through a parking area because of impaired vision or hearing impairments.
16. We recommend the standardizing of seat belt buckles.
17. We support provision of special

handicap parking permits for companies transporting handicapped individuals.

18. We **recommend** crosswalk lights include visual countdown timers where appropriate, to allow all individuals to safely cross the street, including those with disabilities.

19. We support funding to provide a publication to promote pedestrian safety to include: Walking facing traffic, wearing visible clothing, and carrying flashlight or other visible lights.

20. We support educating the public on the dangers of sodium azide and advice on measures to protect themselves and others by properly disposing unused airbags when scrapping a vehicle.

21. We believe that all cars should be required to turn their headlights on whenever windshield wipers are in use.

22. We support requiring all vehicles that do not make normal sounds of startup and motion be equipped with an audible warning device.

23. We believe that RCW 46.20.091 should be changed specifically preventing the issuance of Washington State Drivers licenses or Identification Cards in any form to any person without

legal resident status.

24. We believe that RCW 46.20.181 should be changed to require that if noncitizen resident status is temporary, the Washington State Driver's License or Identification Card that is issued shall expire with the current visa or temporary resident status.

25. We support legislation to have tighter regulations on colors and candlepower for all motor vehicle headlights.

26. We believe that all overpass/bridge clearance height warning signs for overpass bridges less than 14 feet 6 inches, be posted and clearly readable before the last exit before said overpass/bridge.

27. We believe that all school zone signage throughout the state should be standardized.

28. We believe highways should be re-stripped and reflectors added at least once a year.

29. We support legislation that prohibits soliciting and panhandling in rest areas without a permit.

30. We encourage the state of Washington to create new road signs at

the entrances of all tunnels, reminding drivers not to cross the center line and if failure to do so, fines be doubled.

Marine Transportation

1. We oppose any draw down of the Columbia River or its tributaries which would impede barge traffic, as barge traffic is one of the primary transportation modes for farm produce to get to the seaports.

2. We favor expansion of the Columbia River Transportation system by deepening and maintaining the federal navigation channel to 43 feet.

3. We oppose any increase in user fees on coastal and inland waterways.

4. We ask that all ferry terminals have clean, well-lit restrooms available.

5. We recognize that all ferries in the state of Washington are an integral part of the state highway system. As such they are critical to commerce, national defense, and public transportation to the state and the region.

6. We request that the cruise lines have outside resources available for emergency evacuation or towing of the vessel to the nearest port.



Legislative Information

If you have questions about bills, legislative schedules, daily reports, legislative history, or wish to contact a member:

Visit the Washington State Legislature Website:

www.leg.wa.gov

Legislative Information Center

106 Legislative Building

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

In-state toll-free Legislative Hotline number: 1-800-562-6000

TTY Hotline number: 1-800-635-9993.

You may send an e-mail message to your legislator by using the legislator e-mail services:

<http://app.leg.wa.gov/memberemail/>

To find your legislative or congressional district go to:

<http://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/>

Office of Governor Jay Inslee

Legislative Building, 200

PO Box 40002

Olympia 98503-0002

360.902.4111

For information on federal agencies, programs, benefits, services, and more contact:

USA.gov

Toll-free at 1-844-USA-GOV1 (1-844-872-4681)

How a Bill Becomes a Law

From the WA State Legislature Website

1.) A bill may be introduced in either the Senate or House of Representatives by a member.

2.) It is referred to a committee for a hearing. The committee studies the bill and may hold public hearings on it. It can then pass, reject, or take no action on the bill.

3.) The committee report on the passed bill is read in open session of the House or Senate, and the bill is then referred to the Rules Committee.

4.) The Rules Committee can either place the bill on the second reading calendar for debate before the entire body, or take no action.

5.) At the second reading, a bill is subject to debate and amendment before being placed on the third reading calendar for final passage.

6.) After passing one house, the bill goes through the same procedure in the other house.

7.) If amendments are made in the other house, the first house must approve the changes.

8.) When the bill is accepted in both houses, it is signed by the respective leaders and sent to the governor.

9.) The Governor signs the bill into law or may veto all or part of it. If the governor fails to act on the bill, it may become law without a signature.

The Democratic Process in the Grange

Unlike many other fraternal groups, involvement in the legislative process has been an important aspect of Grange activity since the organization's inception in 1867. As a community-based organization, the Grange is a natural arena for discussion of local and national issues. Grangers assembled for their subordinate and Pomona meetings debate matters of common concern. Topics range from the need for a local traffic signal to school levies; from nuclear disarmament to hunger relief in Third World nations; from public power to state and national social programs.

After debate, the Grange members draft and vote on a resolution concerning the issue. If the problem is a local one, the Grange officers and legislative committee members often pursue solution options such as visiting local government officials, writing letters or testifying at hearings.

Resolutions covering issues of statewide or national concern are forwarded from the subordinate Grange to the State Grange. Eventually, the resolution is brought to the delegates assembled for the State Grange convention, usually held during the third week in June. Committees discuss it and delegates debate it. When adopted, it becomes State Grange policy.

The resolutions passed at the State Grange convention that concern national matters are referred to the National Grange convention for consideration. Resolutions adopted there become National Grange policy. In Washington state, representatives of the Grange are present in Olympia to explain Grange policy as it relates to bills under consideration. The Grange also prepares and presents testimony to various commissions and at special hearings throughout the year.

Writing Grange Resolutions

One of the basic precepts of the Grange is its adherence to grassroots policy development. Nearly every policy statement issued by the National or State Granges begins with a local resolution originally written and adopted at a Subordinate Grange meeting. It is therefore important that Grange members understand the correct procedure for drafting resolutions. The following guidelines can help your Grange write and adopt successful Grange resolutions.

- A resolution is a statement of policy or position on an issue.
- Each resolution should have a clear and concise title.
- Each resolution should address only one issue.
- The goal of the resolution is to inform and educate the reader.

To do this, a successful resolution must do two things:

- 1) Identify and explain the problem that needs to be addressed (the WHEREAS portion), and;
- 2) Propose a solution that will address the problem as identified (the RESOLVED portion).

The first portion of a resolution identifies and states the problem that needs to be addressed. The problem should be stated in factual terms. Opinions are not expressed in this portion of the resolution. Each fact should be listed as a separate sentence or paragraph that begins with WHEREAS and is followed by a semi-colon. The final WHEREAS ends with a semi-colon followed by "therefore be it." The RESOLVED portion of the resolution states the action that you propose to address the problem identified in the WHEREAS portion of the resolution. If there is more than one solution, link them together with the phrase "and be it further." When properly written this section clearly restates the problem in summary form and explains the action necessary to address it.

Once a resolution has been written and submitted to the Grange, it may be referred to a Resolutions Committee for consideration and action before being presented to the entire Grange. All actions reported by the committee should be by majority vote in the Committee.

The Resolution Committee can take any of the following actions:

- 1) recommend approval of the resolution as written;
- 2) recommend rejection of the resolution;
- 3) amend the resolution or redraft it as they so decide; or
- 4) recommend that the resolution be transferred to another committee, be tabled, or referred for further study to avoid action on it directly.

SAMPLE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, each resolution should address only one issue or problem; and

WHEREAS, this is the part of the resolution that explains the issue or problem; and

WHEREAS, each "Whereas" statement should address only one fact, idea or supporting argument related to the issue or problem; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this is the part of the resolution that restates the basic issue or problem and proposes a solution to the issue or problem identified in the "Whereas" statements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that each "Resolved" statement should address a separate action to be taken or solution proposed to resolve the issue or problem; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the "Resolved" statement should stand alone and the action proposed therein should be clearly understood by the reader without having to refer back to the "Whereas" statements.



Washington State Grange



Legislative Lobbyist

Jennifer Ziegler

(360) 943-9911

(800) 854-1635

legislative@wa-grange.org

924 Capitol Way South #300

PO Box 1186

Olympia, WA 98507

(360) 943-9911

(800) 854-1635

Fax (360)357-3548

www.wa-grange.org

grange@wa-grange.org

In Essentials, Unity; In Non-Essentials, Liberty; In All Things, Charity