

CONGRESSIONAL-LEGISLATIVE-TAX-TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

SUBSECTIONS:

C=Congressional (US)

L=Legislative (ID)

T=Tax (ID, US)

Trans=Transportation

Approved 11/18/2025 by Larry Hollifield, Substitute Chair

CONGRESSIONAL

Congressional Policy Statement

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports

- the relicensing of all power generating dams in the Pacific Northwest,
- federal disaster assistance programs provided they are not funded by farm bill baseline funding,
- land exchange between private, state, and federal entities on a site-specific basis,
- the fair market exchange of foreign grain,
- the use of peer-reviewed, sound scientific data when making public health and environmental decisions that could affect crop viability,
- legal action to enforce existing U.S. laws prohibiting the importation of food products on which chemicals are used that are not registered in the U.S.,
- beginning young farmer programs,
- Food Aid (P.L. 480) programs that endorse the exchange of physical U.S.-grown commodities and not currency,
- maintaining the Nutrition Title as part of the Farm Bill,
- emergency disaster relief,
- renewal of the Columbia River Treaty with Canada to maintain flood control, power generation, and transportation,
- increased capacity for water storage and delivery within the state, including dams, aquifer recharge efforts, and other infrastructure improvements;
- equitable distribution among agriculture and access for all grain growers to any federal disaster or relief funding;
- a workable guest worker program and a secure border;
- dams on the Columbia Snake River System and the benefits they provide, including barging, clean power generation, flood control, irrigation, and recreation.

The Idaho Grain Producers Association opposes

- a further reduction of USDA farm program payment limitations from current Farm Bill levels,
- any reductions in funding of current Farm Bill programs, unless equitable reductions are made to all federal programs,
- using means testing to establish or restrict participation in federal farm programs,
- EPA and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality regulation of fugitive dust emissions derived from normal agriculture practices,
- any attempts to change the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) exemption from federal worker safety standards for farms with fewer than 10 employees,
- regulations through treaties that would inhibit farm operations in the United States;
- tariffs and other artificial barriers to trade;
- breaching dams on the Columbia Snake River System.

Resolution No C1 – Guest Workers (2024)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports immigration reform legislation that provides a workable solution to the farm labor crisis. A workable solution includes legal work status for the current workforce and their immediate family and access to a legal and stable source of new workers when they are needed in the future.

Resolution No C2 – Farm Bill Programs (2025)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association will partner with NAWG, NBGA, and other industry groups to advocate for federal farm programs that provide an adequate safety net for Idaho wheat and barley farmers.

Supporting Statement

Idaho wheat and barley farmers believe that federal farm programs should provide for a crop insurance program that protects both irrigated and dry land operations, that does not recouple payments to production, provides strong safety net programs like ARC and PLC, and provides robust authority for the Foreign Market Development (FMD) and Market Access Program (MAP) trade programs.

Resolution No C3 – Regulations Impacting Young Workers in Agriculture (2023)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association opposes any regulation that would limit the ability of farmers to legally employ youth to work in agriculture.

Supporting Statement

We support the opportunities work within agriculture provides youth as they learn the value of hard work and develop a strong work ethic.

Resolution No C4 – Transmission Lines (2024)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association will seek solutions to ensure that routing of utility corridors be placed on public land first and then to the areas of least impact to private property owners.

Resolution No C5 – Data Privacy (2025)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association will seek electronically-collected metadata privacy protections for farmers that:

- strip personally identifiable information collected,
- require companies collecting, storing, and analyzing proprietary data to provide full disclosure of their intended use of the data,
- compensate farmers whose proprietary data is shared with third parties who benefit from the use of such data,
- ensure all safeguards are used to ensure that proprietary data is stored at an entity that is not subject to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request,
- uphold the right of a producer who no longer wishes to participate in aggregated data sharing with a private company and wants to remove their past aggregated data from the company’s data base thereby revoking the company’s ability to sell or use said data in the future.

Resolution No C6 – Farm Service Agency (2024)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports the duties and authority of Farm Service Agency County Committees. We encourage frequent, regular COC meetings to allow committee members the opportunity for greater communication with County Executive Directors and Program Technicians, as well as oversight of FSA Program execution.

IGPA supports the timely appointment of Farm Service Agency State Directors and State Committees. We also support fully staffed, well-qualified local county FSA offices for all farmers.

Resolution No C7 – Water Infrastructure and Drought Resiliency (2023)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports Federal investments to modernize and improve Idaho’s water conveyance/storage infrastructure.

Supporting Statement

Water is the lifeblood of Idaho’s economy. It powers agriculture, industry, and our communities. As such, it is of paramount importance that we invest in measures to increase our state’s drought resiliency, including our ability to consistently deliver water to all users in dry years, and our ability to capture and store excess water in wet years.

Resolution No C8—Federal Nutritional Guidelines and Defining “Ultra Processed Foods” (2025)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association maintains that the current USDA guidelines on nutrition are sufficient, as they are based on the best available science and data. Any new definitions or changes to nutrition guidelines should be handled at the federal level so that producers and processors are not dealing with a patchwork of new regulations; and, be based on credible, peer reviewed, replicable research, and data.

LEGISLATIVE

Legislative Policy Statement

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports

- improvements to the state’s water infrastructure to ensure consistent, adequate access to water for agriculture, industries, and cities.
- using burning as a tool in crop production, an effective agriculture burning and smoke management program that brings together all groups that use burning as a management tool,
- the enforcement of Idaho’s trespass law,
- the research efforts of the University of Idaho College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and encourages the Idaho legislature to fund and invest in the Research and Extension Service of the college,
- the Idaho Wheat Commission and the Idaho Barley Commission in their ongoing efforts to fulfill their missions,
- adequate funding for rural schools, rural teachers, and agriculture and/or vocational education,
- the legal protections provided by the Idaho Right to Farm Act.

The Idaho Grain Producers Association will work

- to protect farmers from legal actions brought against them based on smoke, dust, and other environmental trespass issues,
- with all stakeholders to resolve issues with Idaho’s open range law.

The Idaho Grain Producers Association opposes

- efforts to unduly restrict farmers from using burning as an agronomic tool,
- any education funding formulas that disproportionately burden agriculture.

The Idaho Grain Producers Association will be

- actively engaged in legislative action regarding all water issues that affect or could impact water access, availability, and use in the state of Idaho and the region, including adequate funding for ISDA’s invasive species program.

Resolution No L1 – Legal Protection for Farmers (2024)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports legislation that would require reimbursement of legal expenses to agricultural producers who prevail in any action, claim, or counter action alleging that agricultural activities are causing harm.

Resolution No L2 – Use of Idaho Big Game Depredation Fund (2025)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association seeks an adequately funded depredation account, and a landowner-friendly process by which to file a claim for those funds.

Supporting Statement

IGPA supports any policy or proposal that adequately and appropriately funds the depredation account. We also support changes that provide a more timely, independent assessment of the need for distribution and a more aggressive approach to distribution.

Resolution No L3 – Water Infrastructure and Drought Resiliency (2023)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports State investments to modernize and improve Idaho’s water conveyance infrastructure and to promote aquifer recharge.

Supporting Statement

Water is the lifeblood of Idaho’s economy. It powers agriculture, industry, and our communities. As such, it is of paramount importance that we invest in measures to increase our state’s drought resiliency, including our ability to consistently deliver water to all users in dry years, and our ability to capture and store excess water in wet years.

Resolution No L4 – Recently Purchased Land (2025)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports maintaining recently purchased state and county lands on the county tax rolls.

Supporting Statement

Counties that are positioned within Indian Reservations need to keep a constant tax base when private lands are acquired by the tribe.

Resolution No L5 – Commodity Indemnity Fund (CIF) (2024)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports all efforts to maintain accountability, monitor efficiency, and protect the Commodity Indemnity Fund. An important component is the ability of the committee to review all claims. The CIF should also monitor and include the regulation of commodity dealers located outside state boundaries who are the first point of delivery. The requirements of the Seed Indemnity Fund should match the Commodity Indemnity Fund.

Resolution No L6 – Idaho Trespass and Fencing Laws (2025)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association believes cattle should not trespass on privately-owned land and their owners should face penalties if they do. Cattle owners should bear responsibility for fencing. IGPA will continue working with livestock stakeholders and elected officials to find remedies to problems with Idaho’s fencing and trespass laws.

Supporting Statement

The Idaho Open Range Law and its application are antiquated and has allowed for abuse in many cases. IGPA supports working with livestock stakeholders to bring fairness and balance to the application of trespass and fencing in Idaho.

Resolution No L7 – Idaho Wheat Commission Building (2024)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports the Idaho Wheat Commission investing in a new Wheat & Ag Center building.

Resolution No L8 – Drivers Privilege Cards (2025)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports legislation that would allow undocumented workers to obtain a state-recognized drivers privilege card, requiring driving knowledge and safety testing. The drivers privilege card should clearly state that the card is not an official means of identification and that driving privileges are not to be recognized as any form of citizenship.

Resolution No L9 – Foreign Ownership (2024)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports the current Idaho legislature’s position on controlling foreign ownership of land, water and mineral rights.

Resolution No L10 – Weed Pest Control (2025)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports requiring federal, state, county, and local agencies to control noxious and other weed pests using best practices for public safety, agriculture, livestock, and wild game in their road rights-of-way and government lands.

Supporting Statement

Under Idaho Code § 22-2407, Title 22 of the Idaho Agriculture and Horticulture Code and Title 22, Chapter 24, the individual, company, or agency owning the land is responsible for controlling noxious weeds, which includes road rights-of-way.

TAXES

Tax Policy Statement

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports

- the deferment of capital gains taxes when profits are placed in a qualified retirement plan,
- a two-thirds majority be retained as a requirement to pass a bond levy, relieving the burden of property taxes on Idaho farmers.

The Idaho Grain Producers Association opposes

- changes to the State of Idaho production tax exemption as it is currently administered,
- changes to homeowner exemption law that adversely shift the tax burden to grain producers.

Resolution No T1 – Highway Fuel Tax (2024)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports distribution of Idaho highway fuel tax receipts to be used solely for highway infrastructure and maintenance.

Steve Samowitz to provide wording

Resolution No T3 – Capital Gains Taxes (2023)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports a reduction in capital gains taxes for properties held long-term.

Resolution No T4 – Estate Tax Exemption (2024)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports existing estate tax law and opposes any attempts to reduce the exemption. We support the estate tax exemption being made permanent as part of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017.

Resolution No T6 – State and Federal Beer Tax Increases (2023)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association opposes state and federal tax increases from current levels on beer sales and consumption as a means to boost general revenues.

Resolution No T7 – Idaho Personal Property Tax (2024)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association opposes any shift of taxation to real property from a reduction or repeal of Idaho’s personal property tax.

Resolution No T8 – Fuel Tax Rebate (2025)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association opposes any initiative or legislation that would require farmers to apply for a fuel tax rebate.

Resolution No T9 – Impact Fees (2023)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports local impact fees on new or expanding developments to pay for the services required to support growth.

Resolution No T10 – Real Property Tax (2024)

Given the impact on real property tax, the Idaho Grain Producers Association supports innovative funding options to help address rural public education infrastructure needs.

Supporting statement

An unfair burden is placed on rural farms and landowners in funding the need for new public education infrastructure solely through bonds and levies, which impacts real property taxes.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Policy Statement

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports

- the movement of permitted, oversized loads in the State of Idaho,
- maintaining and improving the Snake River and Columbia River transportation system and facilities,
- eliminating bulk grain exports from cargo preference policy requirements,
- uniform truck regulation for the United States, Canada, and Mexico,
- amending Idaho truck weight laws to the maximum federal Formula B, thereby providing uniform maximum gross vehicle weights among western states,
- the Columbia River jetty project,
- the role of the Idaho Transportation Department’s (ITD) Trucking Advisory Council and its inclusion of agriculture representation,
- competitive rail rates and the availability of rail cars for agricultural goods,
- the function and operation of the Port of Lewiston, Idaho’s only seaport and the most inland port on the west coast, as critical to the viability of Idaho’s grain industry.

The Idaho Grain Producers Association opposes

- federal regulations requiring farmers to have a Commercial Driver’s License for operation of farm equipment and trucks,
- Idaho DOT regulations seeking to require farm vehicles over 26,001 pounds to register with the state Motor Carrier Services department instead of the local county DMV office.

Resolution No Trans 1 – Railroad (2024)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports increased competition, improved infrastructure, and better service to Idaho’s grain growers on U.S. railroads. IGPA supports investment in Idaho’s transportation infrastructure, including in short line rail lines.

Resolution No Trans 2 – Reciprocity Agreements (2025)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports reciprocity agreements of farmer carriers delivering their own products across state lines.

Resolution No Trans 3 – Truck Fees (2023)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports truck fees being equitable on a cost per mile basis.

Resolution No Trans 4 – Road Improvement (2024)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports that any increase in funding for road improvement from multiple sources be split equitably with local, county, and highway districts.

Resolution No Trans 5 – U.S. Department of Transportation Truck Numbers (2025)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association opposes USDOT numbers for trucks engaged in transporting commerce within Idaho.

Resolution No Trans 6 - Intrastate Transportation (2023)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports the continuation of an intrastate designation for non-commercial/agricultural vehicles moving agricultural products from the farm to a point-of-sale within the state of Idaho.

Resolution No Trans 7 – Federal Hours-of-Service Exemption (2025)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration’s (FMCSA) limited exemption for agricultural products from the federal Hours-of-Service regulations.

Resolution No Trans 8 – 129,000 lbs. Truck Weights (2023)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association supports the use of a 129,000 lb. truck weight limit on all Idaho routes. IGPA supports designating the Idaho Department of Transportation (ITD) as the state’s sole permitting agency. All 129,000 lb. truck permits would be issued by ITD as is presently done on trucks over 60,000 lb.

Supporting Statement

129,000 lbs. trucks distribute weight across more axles and thus have a lighter impact on the roads than normal trucking means. The ability to transport grain increases the competitiveness and cost savings of Idaho grain farmers.

Resolution No Trans 9 – Rail Shippers Transportation Advisory Committee (2024)

The Idaho Grain Producers Association strongly endorses the role of the Rail Shippers Transportation Advisory Committee (RSTAC) in advising the federal Surface Transportation Board (STB).

Supporting Statement

IGPA will actively support the inclusion of farmers on the RSTAC to ensure that agriculture is represented on freight rail matters before the STB.