

Washington  
State  
**Grange**



***Legislative Handbook 2014***



# Agriculture

*The Washington State Grange understands the impact agriculture has on the vitality of our rural communities and the economy of Washington State. We will continue to advocate on behalf of all agriculture, as this is the backbone of our organization, and will continue to be a voice for family and small farm producers to ensure their unique concerns are considered.*

## 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 for projects to develop plans for treating sewage and manure using digesters.
3. We support subsidizing methane digesters for the production of heat and electrical power.
4. We oppose taxation (control) of methane produced by livestock.
5. We want the Forest Practices

Rules to reflect the realities of our dry land forests in Eastern Washington and to foster sustainable consistent forestry production and a viable long term timber industry and minimize the damage to our watersheds and drainage areas.

**6. We support 4H, FFA and youth agriculture programs.**

**7. We support the concept that kids 12-15 years of age be able to work in agriculture fields.**

**8. We believe that the State of Washington should establish a 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 during critical times.

3. We discourage strikes which inhibit the harvesting, transporting or

processing of perishable commodities during harvesting.

4. We support placing limitations on state and federally-funded indigent legal services groups who, in their efforts to enforce migrant labor laws, place discriminatory hardships on growers who have unknowingly violated unrealistic provisions of the law.

5. We recommend that the unemployment insurance program, as it applies to farm 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 National Agriculture Statistics 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 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, to the extent that the tradition of learning the skills of farming might be passed on as they have traditionally for more than 7,000 years.**

**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 the negotiation of trade agreements with all nations willing to import the commodities grown in Washington.

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

4. We support the International Marketing Program for Agricultural Commodities and Trade (IMPACT

Center) and WSU.

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

6. 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.

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

8. 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.

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

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

11. We oppose all embargoes and sanctions on grain, food, medicine, or other humanitarian goods and services unless national security is involved.

12. We encourage the state Legislature to fund agricultural exhibits at local, county and state fairs and to continue permanent fair funding.

13. We oppose importing foreign products that do not meet U.S. specifications including animal and plant diseases and would include proper sanitation procedures.

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

15. 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.

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

17. We support the existence of 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.

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

## **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 wetlands 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 urge local Granges to promote community forums between landowners, sportsmen, and other land users including public land managers to allow for communication and to solve problems.

6. 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.

7. We believe that, in areas of controversy, private property rights should have precedence over environmental concerns.

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

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

10. 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.

11. Government agencies should

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.

## **Index**

Agriculture – 2  
Conservation & Ecology – 8  
Cooperatives – 14  
Education – 16  
Fish & Wildlife – 18  
Health Care & Safety – 19  
State & National Issues – 21  
Taxation – 26  
Transportation – 27  
Your Senators  
& Representatives – 29  
Reaching members of Congress – 31



avoid agricultural lands when selecting sites for roads and other facilities.

**12.** 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.

**13.** We request greater financial support for riverbank stabilization.

**14.** We believe dredging of silt from rivers would reduce damage from flooding.

**15.** 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.

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

**17.** 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.

**18.** 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.

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

**20.** We recommend that, when forest land is taken out of production due to changes in riparian regulations, affected landowners be compensated.

**21.** 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 TDR/PDR programs and include sunset clauses.

**22.** 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.

**23.** We support legislation to remove the penalty charged to remove land from open space designation if it has been an open space for a minimum of ten (10) years.

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

**25.** 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.

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

## **Growth Management**

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

2. 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 refocused on local decision-making.

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

## **Public Lands**

1. We generally 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;  
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.

7. We believe the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River should be conserved for its natural use.

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

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 when possible 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 eastern Washington and we urge the U.S. Congress and Washington State legislature to fully fund and direct these agencies to step up their respective programs to create and maintain healthy, fire resilient forest landscapes and, when feasible, allow a timely sale of commercially valuable 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 continued support from the 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 continue to guard against mite infestation of bee colonies.

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

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

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

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

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

10. We encourage the development of home farm businesses.

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

12. 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.

13. We strongly support vegetable and forage production.

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

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

## **Research and Science**

1. We support continued 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 continued federal funding for agricultural research projects at WSU.

7. We support continued 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 does not now exist and 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.

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

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

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

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

15. We support the Commission on Pesticide Registration in its efforts to direct studies at the WSU Food &

Environmental Quality Lab regarding the registration of minor crop pesticides.

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

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

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

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

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

21. 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.

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

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

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

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

26. 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 the Counter-Cyclical Proposal presented by Senator Patty Murray and Representative Cathy McMorris-Rodgers.

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

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

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

7. We oppose tobacco subsidies and encourage tobacco farms to diversify.

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

9. The following are the policies and directions that we recommend Congress should 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.

**10. 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 as such.

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 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.

2. We urge continued work on reciprocal trade agreements in regard to meat imports and exports.

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

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

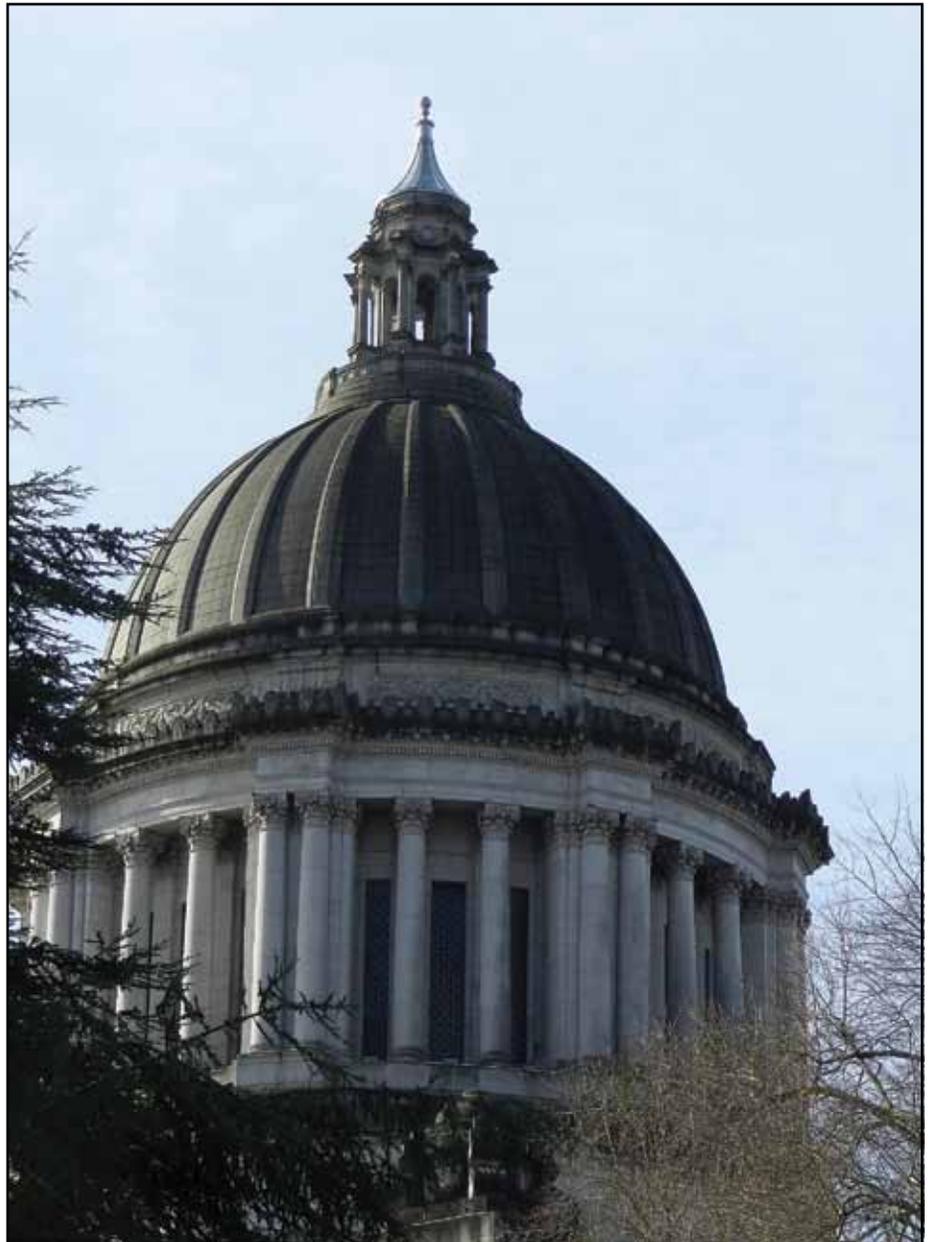
5. We urge continued licensing and inspection of custom farm slaughterers and meat facilities.

6. We support the use of irradiation as a method of controlling E. coli, salmonella, and other food-borne pathogens.

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

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

9. We oppose any changes in the



current Open Range Law.

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

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

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

13. We strongly encourage the USDA to keep confidential all information pertaining to CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation) nutrient management plans, or that they not be

subject to public disclosure laws.

14. We support the Washington State Brand Inspection Program.

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

16. 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.

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

# Conservation and Ecology

*Grange members have long been recognized as good stewards of their land. We do not believe that citizens must sacrifice their prosperity or surrender their constitutional rights in order to preserve our environment. We believe responsible stewardship recognizes a balance between use and preservation.*

## Air Quality

1. We support incidental 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. However, we oppose placing a fixed limit on the number of days of allowable burning.

3. We suggest Washington State Grange work with the Washington State and Idaho State Legislatures to support alternative burn research on field burning. (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. We believe all heating and cooking devices should 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. As the accused has the right to face the accuser, we support legislation requiring that all complaints registered with a state agency be issued in writing with the complainants name and address, accompanied by a detailed description of the alleged infraction.

2. Prior to a state agency invoking emergency **environmental** regulations, we believe 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. We believe that any and all environmental rules and regulations should be based on proven, peer-reviewed scientific data.

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

5. We support fair market value as just compensation for land removed from private use.

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

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

8. We believe that science used as a basis for policy should be peer reviewed.

## 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, including water vapor emitters, as water vapor is the major green house gas, 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 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.

## Natural Resources (Forestry)

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

2. We affirm that trees are a natural, renewable resource.

3. We urge a forest practices policy

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which allows the post-harvest cutting of firewood.

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

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

6. The Washington State Grange urges the United States Forest Service in Region Six 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.

7. We urge congress to invest greater resources in the state and private forestry program.

8. We believe that an independent economic impact analysis must be performed as part of the process of creating or changing the designation of public preserves.

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

10. 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, to ensure that the halting of erosion will not have adverse effects on stream beds or marine beaches.

## **Natural Resource Extrac- tion**

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.

2. We support the opening of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska for oil exploration and drilling.

## **Pollution and Waste**

1. We support recycling programs and the education of citizens in the understanding of recycling and waste management in their communities.

2. To eliminate the introduction of hazardous waste into surface and ground waters, 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 a recyclable market value for plastic products.

9. We support the continued manufacturing of incandescent light bulbs.

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

3. 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.

4. 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.

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

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

6. We believe the costs of inter-basin water diversions are too high, as it relates to the costs to the environment, alternative water supply, conservation, and energy. We therefore oppose such transfer except where it contributes to conservation.

7. We support that permit exempt wells

shall have a 5,000 gallon per day limit for domestic and agricultural beneficial uses, plus additional water for irrigating gardening and whatever is necessary for livestock and wild ruminants.

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

9. 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.

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

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

12. We believe government agencies should recognize riparian water rights in balance with all other water rights.

13. We urge local control of water resource management and oppose any attempts to place this responsibility under federal jurisdiction.

14. We support a process for making water resource decisions on a watershed-by-watershed basis. This process must provide accountability to the legislative body of counties wholly or partly in the watershed. All watershed decisions should be based on sound, locally-applicable peer reviewed science, geologic, conductivity, connectivity, transmissivity, and actual stream-flow data.

15. We believe that all authority for water resources should be removed from the Department of Ecology (DOE) and a water entity be established with equal representation from those parts of Washington located east and west of the Cascade Mountains.

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

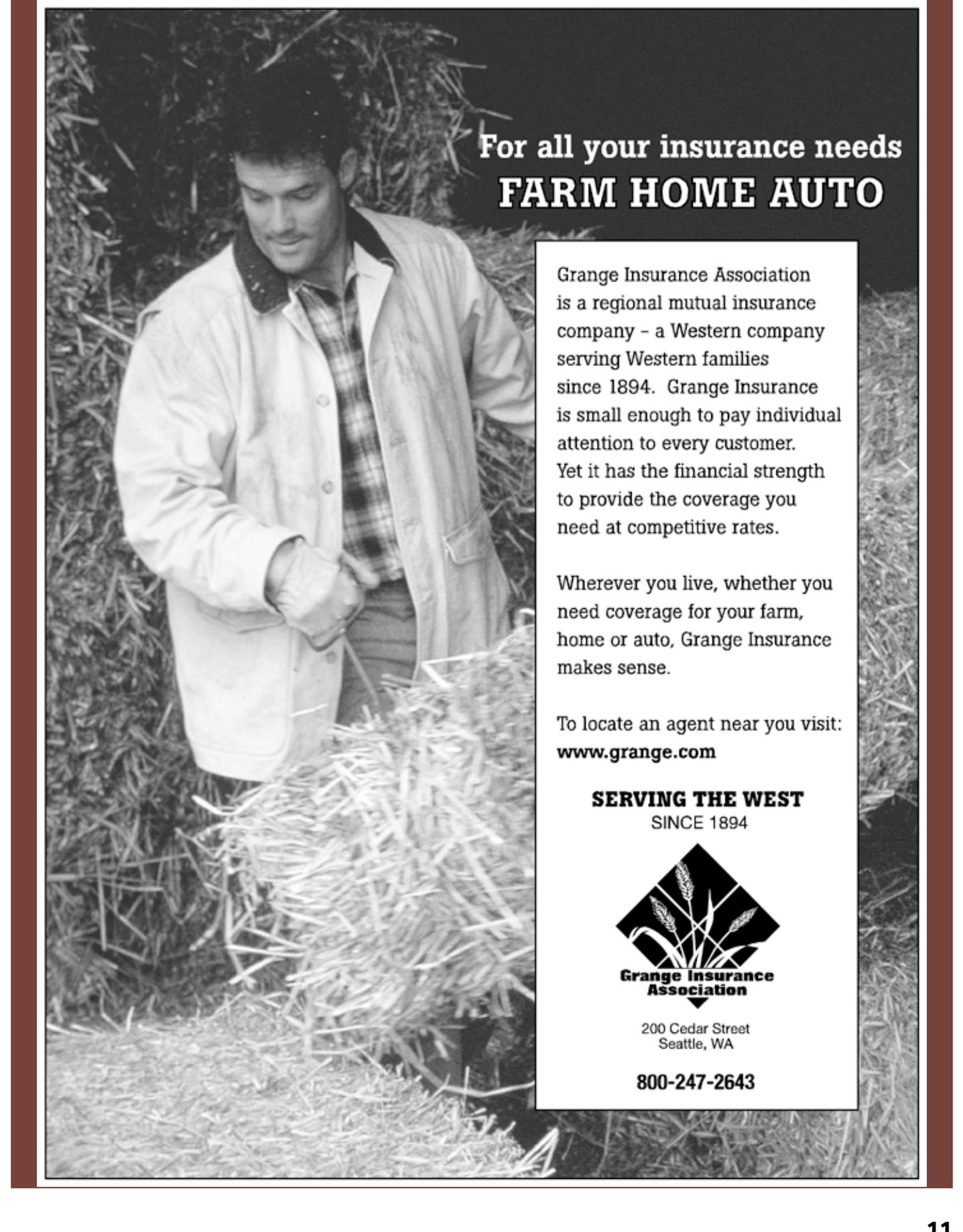
17. We urge allowing conserved water to be used on adjacent land.

18. We encourage use of reclaimed water as a source to be put to use.

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

20. Water right applications must be processed and finalized within three years or less.

21. We support transfer of municipal

A black and white photograph of a man with a mustache, wearing a white jacket over a plaid shirt, standing in a field of hay. He is looking down at a bundle of hay in front of him. The background is a large pile of hay.

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water between communities and/or PUD's.

22. We oppose the breaching of dams.

23. 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.

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

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

26. 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.

27. We support property owners to participate in local watershed management.

28. We support the continued effort to shape Western water law for the betterment of landowners.

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

30. We support water as a renewable resource to include:

a. including hydroelectricity and hydro power.

31. We believe that all current and future hydroelectric power be considered renewable green energy.

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

33. We support desalination of saltwater for potable water.

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

35. We oppose increase in water right application fees.

36. We support the use of peer reviewed scientific review 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.

37. We believe the legislature need to change laws to keep water rights in the watershed where issued.

## Water Quality

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

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 the quality of water resources affected by agricultural operations are the programs carried out by local conservation districts based on voluntary action and coupled with technical information and financial assistance.

4. We urge all citizens to implement voluntary conservation practices that will protect water quality.

5. We believe all water quality regulations should be based on sound peer reviewed scientific data.

6. We support realistic groundwater standards rather than a policy of no degradation.

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

8. We urge the Legislature to allocate ten percent of Priority 3 **Timber Tax** Funds to be used specifically for Water Quality Control and Improvements and Erosion Projects. Funds should be distributed locally by the County Treasurer to the local Conservation District.

9. We urge the Washington State Congressional delegation to support a feasibility study by the Bureau of Reclamation by 2009 of potential increased water storage within the Yakima River Basin and that the Bureau take into consideration relevant work and documents prepared by state, regional and local interests.

10. We believe that treated effluent from large sewage treatment operations contain trace chemicals and residual pharmaceuticals that are harmful to aquatic life and the environment. Therefore we believe that such effluent should be treated on-site to remove as many contaminants as possible, and that such effluent be further treated through ground filtration before being discharged into any waters of Washington State.

11. We believe that well-maintained

on-site septic systems are a safe and effective means of disposing of human waste while protecting in-ground water supplies from harmful by-products of human consumption, while returning a substantial amount of clean water to underground water tables for reuse.

12. We oppose minimum standards set by the state with regard to costly regulation of existing small on-site septic systems.

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

14. 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.

## Riparian Areas & Flooding

1. We believe that 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 a legislative change to RCW 86.09.377, Voting Rights; a flood control district election shall be held in accordance with the general election laws of the state, and only registered voters who have resided in the proposed flood district area for 90 days immediately preceding the election shall be allowed to vote therein.

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

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

**6. 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.

## **Bonneville Power**

### **Administration (BPA)**

1. BPA was created to market the output of Federal dams on the Columbia River, which produce over half of the Region's power supply. In addition, BPA owns and operates over 80 percent of the Region's transmission system. We support BPA as the lead agency for marketing and delivering Federal power, provided that:

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

b. BPA reduces non-essential programs and cuts costs so it remains competitive.

c. BPA maintains public ownership of high voltage transmission and resists any attempts by FERC to mandate a regional system for transmission that is not accountable to elected public officials.

d. BPA's management structure is changed to give citizens of the region greater control over the agency. Public concerns must be reviewed on a regular basis and BPA must be responsive to ratepayer concerns.

e. BPA operates under transmission policy directives that recognize the characteristics of the multipurpose Columbia River Power System.

2. We oppose any congressional move toward a market-based rate system and support the present cost-based rate system.

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 resident ratepayers in a unified effort to cause the BPA to reduce its wholesale power rates to a reasonable level.

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

### **Columbia River Federal Power System**

1. Two-thirds of the electrical power generated by the Columbia River Power System is used in Washington and is 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, including continuation of General Transfer Agreements (GTA) costs in BPA rates.

b. Continuation of preference for nonprofit 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 hydroelectric generation and transmission system.

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

2. We support updating hydroelectric turbines on power dams with the new fish friendly turbines.

### **Energy Resources**

1. We recommend development of conservation, co-generation and renewable resources, including wind, biomass, and solar, geothermal and animal waste. We also recommend continued study and development of technologies that will reduce the environmental impacts of traditional power production, including distributed generation, such as fuel cells.

2. We strongly support programs to facilitate disposal and/or recycling of nuclear waste using the best current and/or future technology.

3. We recommend that any statewide utility rate increase would require public hearings throughout the state.

a. Any local rate increase require a public hearing as close to the center of the rate increase area as practical.

b. Any rate increase require written notification included in the billing envelope as a separate page with large font and red letters in the title stating "Proposed Rate Increase" and text advising how much the proposed rate increase will be and the justification for it, a minimum of three billing cycles in advance of the proposed rate increase.

c. That all utility companies raising



rates based on a source increase be required to lower rates just as efficiently when the source rates are lowered.

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

5. **We support the right of the citizens to refuse the use of smart meters.**

### **Magnetic and Electric Fields**

1. We recommend that public utilities continue to respond to concern about electric and magnetic fields by supporting research and maintaining a high level of public information. The development and implementation of policies dealing with EMF and radon issues by utilities and legislative and regulatory bodies should be based on science.

### **Public Utility District Law**

1. We urge preservation of the laws allowing 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.

## **Restructuring of the Electric Utility Industry**

1. Electric power deregulation should be delayed until proper safeguards are in place for all consumers.

2. Restructuring will impact utilities differently depending on the 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.

3. As the industry goes through this transition, the debts associated with failed nuclear plants remain a moral, if not legal, obligation of the federal government.

4. Congress should also provide assurance that the disparity which causes rural areas to pay higher rates than urban areas does not become wider than it is today.

5. We support the right of the states, not FERC, to design Regional Transmission Systems.

6. Congressional action intended

to encourage or accommodate the restructuring of the electric industry should recognize and defer to local control where communities have chosen to own or operate the electric system which serves them.

7. We support that two positions on the FERC be filled with one representative from the Columbia River Drainage and one from the Colorado River Drainage.

8. We urge the FERC not to impose a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) and Standard Market Design (SMD) on the Northwest and to allow our region to develop an alternative approach to strengthening the 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, in order to promote the economic well-being of all regions of our state.*

1. We support the Capper-Volstead Act that has made our 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) to 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 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, 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

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**Tumwater**  
5735 Littlerock Rd SW

**Vancouver Mall**  
8405 NE Vancouver Mall Dr

**West Olympia**  
2400 Evergreen Park Dr SW

**Yelm**  
1105 Yelm Ave W

**Yelm In-Store**  
1109 Yelm Ave E,  
Inside Safeway



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 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. 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 that agriculture be integrated into environmental education programs in school science curricula.

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

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.

### Funding

1. We believe the Washington State Legislature has a constitutional obligation to provide adequate and stable funding for the basic education needs (defined as reading, language arts, mathematics) of students in all districts of the state so that 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 Future Farmers of America, 4H, vocational agriculture and other vocational programs.

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

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

5. We support local operation and control of rural school districts, regardless of the source of funding.

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

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

8. We support the 60 percent majority and the 40 percent validation requirement, and the 10 percent levy lid in all school bond and levy issues.

9. We oppose the use of public tax dollars for private schools.

10. We oppose state and local taxation for hot lunch sales by school districts.

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

12. We support the continued use for education construction of all profits of the State Lottery not already dedicated by statute for bond purposes and that the State Legislature fully fund both basic education as required by the State Supreme Court in *Seattle School District v. State of Washington* (1977), *Seattle School District v. State of Washington* (1983) collectively known as the Doran Decisions and any other education programs or requirements

mandated by state law.

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

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

15. We support rural schools and oppose their closure.

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

a. American Sign Language (ASL) as a beginning class.

b. English Sign Language as an advanced class.

4. We urge that the funds from programs such as High Skills, High Wages be spread out more, so that rural areas have more access.

5. We support further study of Charter Schools as a possible way to improve our education system.

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

7. We support the right to continued home schooling in this state in accordance



with current Washington State law as of June 2008.

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

9. Should the right to home school be declared unconstitutional by the State Supreme Court, we support an amendment to the Washington State Constitution that allows this right to continue to exist in this State.

### School Zones

1. We believe that the required “School Zone” notification shall be signed “Speed Limit 20 MPH When Lights Flashing” with two amber lights and to be utilized (activated) when children are present.

### Teaching Standards

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

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

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

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

5. We strongly oppose student proficiency exams as a graduation requirement.

6. We encourage the State of Washington to use student assessment testing to evaluate the individual school districts’ curriculum to meet consistent educational objectives statewide.

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

8. We support measures and laws that require grade school children to know and be able to do BASIC mathematics before being allowed to use calculators in school.

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

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

11. We support that the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution be taught and displayed in our schools.

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

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

14. 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.**

15. **We believe that no class shall be**

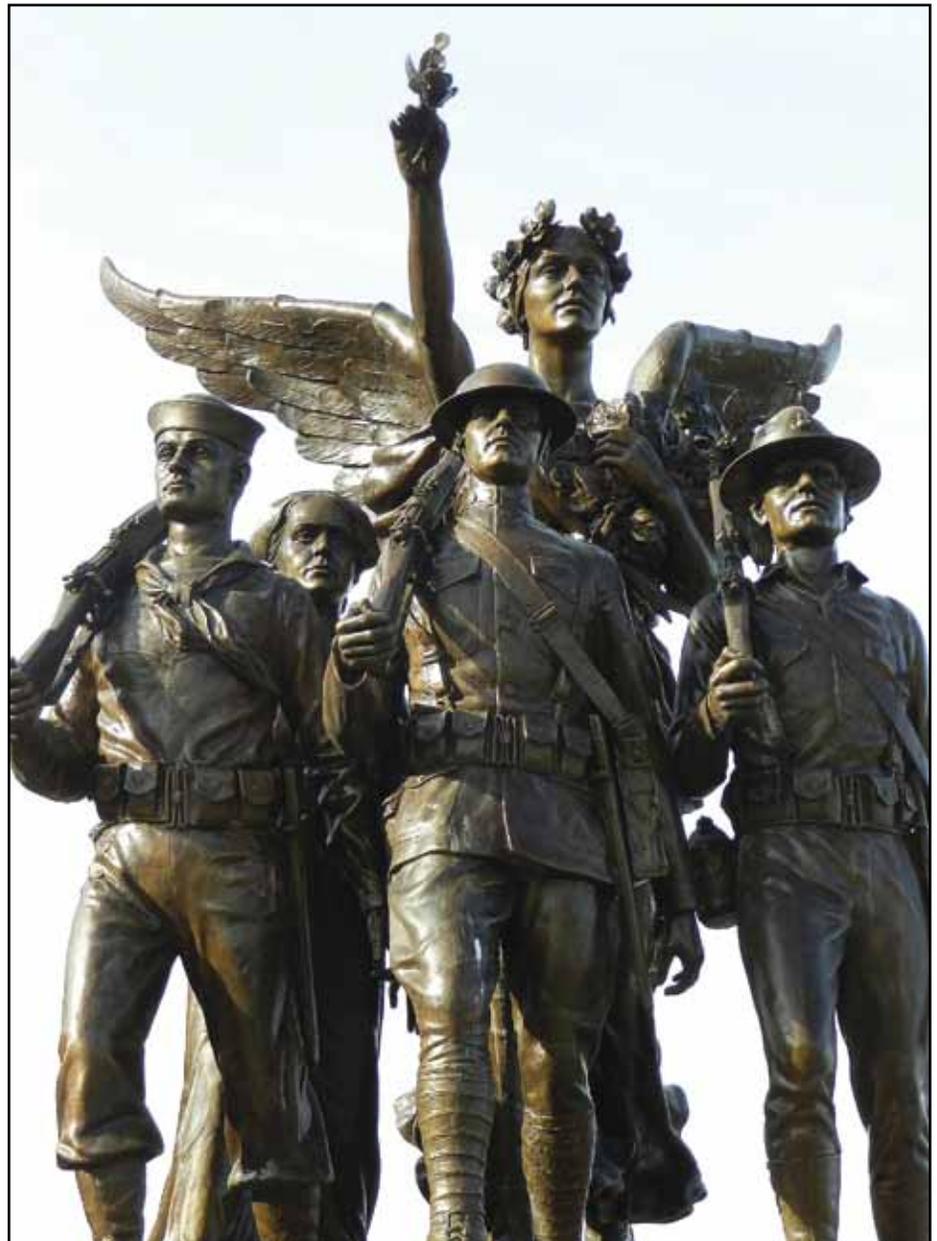
**larger than 24 students to 1 instructor.**

### 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

*We believe in the concept of shared sacrifice when it comes to protection and restoration of our natural resources. All who contribute to the decline of our natural resources should be included as responsible parties in recovery plans.*

## Hunting and Fishing

### Regulations

1. We request that the Department of Fish and Wildlife simplify their rules and regulations as printed in respective pamphlets.

2. 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.

3. We support more severe penalties for poaching. Such penalties should be strictly enforced.

4. 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.

5. We oppose mandatory or mass registration of firearms, firearm owners, ammunition, and purchasers of ammunition.

6. We **support** the right of US citizens to keep and bear arms **and will oppose any and all legislation that threatens or weakens this right.**

7. We encourage firearm safety education.

8. We oppose mandatory lock-up of firearms.

9. We support the use of hounds and baiting as hunting aids to control predator populations.

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

### Protected and Endangered Species

1. **We support any and all efforts to delist the wolf as an endangered species in all of Washington State.**

2. 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.

3. We are opposed to the breeding of wolf-dogs.

4. We support the revisiting of the Endangered Species Act in Washington State and the Washington Administrative Code WAC 232-12-297 be revised to include:

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

b. That equal consideration be 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.

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

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. These mammals have become overpopulated and destructive in some areas. We favor state, not federal control.

**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.**

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

**10. We believe it is important to work with other agricultural organizations to address and correct**

**the inadequacies of WSFWS proposed agricultural exemptions of critical habitat areas.**

### 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 especially oppose interference with or 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 and 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. 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. 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), breaching of dams or killing of salmon that have returned to spawn without proper utilization.

### **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.

### **Treaty Rights**

1. We believe Native Americans should enjoy the same citizenship rights and privileges as all other U.S. citizens but urge they share the same responsibilities.

2. We support a mandate of the people directing all state departments to comply with RCW 77.110 – Salmon and Steelhead Trout Management of Resources, or as an alternative, directing the Attorney General to obtain an interpretation of Initiative 456 (1984) as an enforceable public law.

3. 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.

### **General Issues**

1. We support the Washington

Department of Fish and Wildlife as a stand alone department.

2. We recommend that Subordinate and Pomona Granges work closely with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and other concerned governmental agencies in resolving related management problems in their areas. We further encourage education of fish propagation programs involving 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 encourage the State Department of Fish and Wildlife to recognize the potential of managed livestock grazing to change forage resources to benefit wildlife objectives and to implement grazing where this management is 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 recommend that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, private property owners and other stakeholders, be involved in any discussions relating to firearm restrictions proposed in any county of the state.

8. 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.

9. 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.

## **Health Care and Safety**

*The Washington State Grange has a keen interest in ensuring access to high quality health care services for rural citizens. We will support policies that allow choices in the level and kinds of services and providers available to rural citizens.*

### **Health Care Services**

1. We support health care reform that allows all citizens to access 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. We further support attempts to improve the quality of health care services available to rural citizens.

3. 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 recognize the appropriate capital investment for small, lower volume facilities. If universal acceptance is required of rural hospitals, there must be matching financial support.

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

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

6. We support full disclosure of a fair cost for common prescription drugs.

7. 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.

8. We support the restoration of the second doctor in the operating room for patients on Medicare.

9. We urge that the new federal and state laws on privacy of medical information be examined, and amended if necessary, so that medical practitioners may release or disclose limited information when necessary to contact relatives or others who are needed to authorize medical treatment.

10. **We support legislation that corrects the inadequacies to the student-to-nurse ratio in our public schools and that we meet at a minimum**

## **the current federal guidelines for student-to-nurse ratio.**

a. As developmentally disabled students are being mainstreamed into the public schools and with the increase of students with chronic illnesses (i.e. asthma, seizure disorders etc.), these students' conditions mandate the expertise of a healthcare professional to make potential life changing decisions. Therefore we ask that legislation be passed to correct the inadequacies and that financial help be given.

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 employers to purchase/provide health care benefits for their employees due to the tremendous impact such additional expense would have upon individuals, small businesses and the self-employed.

**4. We urge Congress to maintain adequate access for patients utilizing the 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 changes from the Food and Drug Administration in regards to 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.

3. We support FDA approval of the use of animal colostrum to treat human

disease.

## **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, along 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 to facilitate the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing.

5. We support making sign language classes available to all students as a foreign language credit. (See Education, Programs).

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

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

8. 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.

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

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

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

11. 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 favor 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 a strict standard to ensure all canning jars and lids are of good quality and resistant to moisture and rust. Salts, acids and foods should not cause a deterioration of the lids from the underside.

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

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

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 alcohol, tobacco, **and marijuana.**

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

10. We support broadcasting companies limiting advertisements of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products.

11. We support drug-free workplaces.

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

13. We recommend that the Washington Department of Health issue residential kitchens with a license to process food for public consumption and allow them to operate as commercial kitchens with the stipulation that the Food Service code for bed and breakfast operations be followed with simple modifications to accommodate this new category.



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

15. We support a program so that service animals need to have a universal identifiable tag, collar, or coat that indicates it is a service animal.

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

17. We support the inclusion of all legislators and public officials from the governor down in the Washington State Patrol's random drug testing program. Officials who are unable to pass such drug testing should be removed from office without compensation until such time as they are able to prove medical reasons or successfully challenge the test.

18. We recommend that indoor tanning businesses be licensed and inspected in the State of Washington and that the use of indoor tanning beds by anyone under the age of 18 years of age have parental consent in the State of Washington and that indoor tanning businesses be required to provide customers facts about indoor tanning as it relates to skin cancer risks.

19. We support a revision to the Food Safety Modernization Act that would

remove the burden to U.S. Producers.

20. We support State and Federal laws that make synthetic drug compounds such as bath salts and hallucinogen's illegal.

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 policies returning disciplinary control to parents and teachers. We support allowing our teachers to set and maintain disciplinary standards at school that are consistent with those at home 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 normal viewing hours.

8. We support a video and game rating system so parents can easily ascertain a video's or game's suitability for their children.

9. We support the definition of marriage as between one man and one woman.

10. We support legislation requiring all recipients of public assistance to be subject to random drug testing; if they fail the test they lose their benefits for a period of not less than six months and any children living in the household must be remanded to Child Protection Services.

# State and National Issues

*The Washington State Grange believes that every rural community is entitled to a viable economy, wholesome family living space and a sense of community pride. We believe strong communities and strong families can be maintained through shared responsibility in neighborhood concerns and a commitment to community service. We must guard against the temptation to believe that government can solve all social problems. We support all efforts to develop rural leadership and to promote and maintain the family unit.*

## **Annexation of Cities and Towns**

1. We urge that RCW 35.13.120 to RCW 35.13.160 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 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. After the Federal District Court has ruled on the constitutionality of Initiative 872 in the present challenge by the major political parties, the Executive Committee of the Washington State Grange is directed to take all appropriate and necessary steps to ensure the effective implementation of the initiative, to defend the initiative

against further attacks by the political parties, and to protect the right of voters in Washington State to vote for any candidate in the primary.

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

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

6. 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 that county.

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

8. We support legislation that requires the State of Washington to pay for the

costs of election recounts for statewide or multi-county elected offices.

9. 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 recommend that Washington State require revisions as needed of voter registration policies and procedures and the maintenance of rolls of registered voters to accurately reflect the population of legally qualified Washington State voters.

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

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

19. We support changing judicial elections to copy Arizona's merit system of appointing judges.

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

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

22. 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.

23. We believe that all registered voters of the county, regardless of residency, vote for and elect county commissioners in each county commissioner district, and we support changes to RCW 36.32.050 so that the registered voters of each county commissioner district shall

elect from among their own number, each county commissioner.

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

**25. 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 favor 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 intoxicated, 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 that does not infringe upon the individual state's police powers and where evidence shows criminal intent.

11. We support and encourage programs that remind prisoners of their debt to the victim and responsibility to society, teach a strong work ethic, and enhance a sense of self-discipline by requiring 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.

14. We support an amendment to the Washington State Constitution, Article I, Section 20: All persons charged with a crime shall be bailable by sufficient sureties, unless no condition except detention of the person prior to trial will reasonably assure public safety, or except violent crimes and capital offenses when the proof is evident, or presumption great.

## 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 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 (major or minor) beginning with the first offense.

6. We encourage the Legislature to support the creation of teen courts.

7. We believe that those who are under the age of 18 that are caught breaking the law while under the influence of drugs

and/or alcohol be tried as an adult.

8. 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 support legislation prohibiting the U.S. Postal Service from advertising its services.

3. 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.

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

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

6. We urge the annual federal deficit be curbed by every means possible, including:

a. Less bureaucracy (fewer federal employees);

b. More efficient spending; and

c. Limits on the number of new federal programs introduced.

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

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

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

12. We urge an amendment to the constitution of the United States that shall not be construed to prohibit 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.

13. We support legislation requiring all financial institutions to have a secure method, such as shredding, for disposing of all printed financial information.

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

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

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

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

18. 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.

19. We oppose the Food Safety Modernization Act, in its current form.

20. 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.

21. We believe Congress shall make no law that applies to the citizens of the United States that does not apply equally to the Senators and Representatives, and that members of Congress be placed under the National Health Care System as it exists.

## **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.

2. 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

3. 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.

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

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

6. 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.

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

## **Insurance**

1. We support a Proof of Premise Liability Certificate be required of those who operate an adult care facility.

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

## **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 RCW 60.04.031 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 by repealing or amending RCW 35.21.830 and 36.01.130.

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 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 cemetery districts in the State of Washington remain a standalone entity. However, should there be a consolidation of a cemetery district 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 believe Hydropower should be listed as a renewable resource in our state's clean energy law.**

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

## **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 be compensated by the losing government entity for their legal fees within a 12-month time frame.

5. We support open government transparency.

6. We believe that prior to a public hearing of any bill, the full text of the bill must be made publicly available 24 hours prior to hearing, and the final bill is publicly available for 24 hours prior to final passage.

7. 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.

**8. 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 rules and regulations on new law to only three years. Laws older than three years must be referred back to the Legislature in order to develop new rules and/or regulations.

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 urge the adoption of legislation to allow licensed auctioneers in Washington State to sell used vehicles, trucks, or recreational vehicles without a motor vehicle dealer license, on vehicles having a sufficient low value, so that the public interest is not detrimentally impacted.

4. 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.

5. We believe that the legislature 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.

**6. 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.**

**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.**

## **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 if a special legislative session is needed for whatever reason the members of the Washington State Legislature will not receive any additional funds.

**7. We encourage the state legislature to incorporate the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) in the Washington State Constitution.**

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

## **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. We oppose all proposals or existing laws which are designed to restrict the ability

of consumers or communities to create their own telecommunications options.

6. We support allowing satellite television companies to provide customer access to any specific local channels in the customer's region.

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

8. 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. We urge the Legislature to adopt Universal Service legislation to assure affordable rates in rural areas.

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 the passage of 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.

12. We support enacting and enforcing laws requiring a recipient of public assistance be a legal resident of Washington and possess an identifiable physical address within the area from which they receive benefits.

13. We believe that any adult receiving financial assistance from the state be subject to random drug screening.

# Taxation

*The Washington State Grange recognizes the necessity to balance expenditures and revenue. Sweeping proposals regarding one must be consistent with the other. We support ballot or other legislative proposals which limit revenue with corresponding limits to expenditures.*

## **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.

## **General**

1. We support tax policies that benefit agriculture, namely installment sales, capital gains, investment credit and income averaging.

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

3. We support sufficient taxation of alcohol to pay for alcohol treatment centers.

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, property tax, and possibly other existing taxes.

6. We support a sunset clause on all new taxes.

7. We recommend that latecomer fees be paid to the original developer and calculated the same as public latecomer fees, under Chapters 35.72 and 35.91 RCW.

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

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

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

11. We urge Congress to amend the tax code to stop the practice of awarding taxpayer-funded attorney fees in cases of civil rights violations where there are no indigent plaintiffs.

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

13. We oppose any and all efforts to impose a State Income Tax on the people of Washington State.

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

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 any government agency 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 support a constitutional amendment to limit the authority of the State Legislature to impose new or increased taxes without either a 66 2/3 percent majority vote of both houses and the approval of the Governor or an affirmative vote of the people.**

19. 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.

20. We support changing tax laws allowing 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 applicable sales tax 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 resold 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 persons' property tax exemption.

5. We support property tax reform that includes a 102 percent or lower cap on property tax levies.

6. We support the taxation of income-producing properties of churches.

7. 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.

8. We support legislation requiring

lands purchased by the state be subject to payments in lieu of taxes that are equal to the tax payments that would otherwise be due local taxing districts in order to lessen the tax burden on private landowners.

9. 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.

10. We support open space taxation laws.

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

# 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 this system. We recognize that all of society benefits from a transportation infrastructure that is adequate, modern and matched to the relevant needs of commerce and citizens in every region of the state.*

## **Air**

1. We support expansion wherever feasible of congested airports.

2. We support continued research for other airport locations and alternatives in addition to expansion of existing airports.

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

## **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.**

## **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 lasting more than two years.

2. We oppose any further 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.

## **Fuel Tax**

1. We support a reasonable graduated gasoline tax (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.

## **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 support tolls collected only for the cost of new road, bridge, and tunnel construction and oppose toll roads as a source of general revenue in the State of Washington.

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

5. We believe all motor vehicle excise taxes **should** be used for transportation.

6. We support a reasonable surcharge on studded tires to be paid at the time of purchase, and said funds be dedicated to repairing the road damage caused by said studded tires.

## **Improvements**

1. We encourage faster scheduling of safety upgrades to roadways with high accident rates.

2. We support increased research for the purpose of 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 request our Congressional Delegation pursue federal funding from existing collected funds for an all weather national defense highway (I-90) as proposed by WSDOT in April 2000.

7. We support the construction of the Snoqualmie Pass tunnel.

8. We urge the WSDOT to eliminate the use of corrosive de-icer and change to an alternate method of removing snow and ice from highways.

9. We support coordination of the transportation infrastructures to facilitate economical and expedient freight shipments.

10. We encourage rest stops be built for new or upgraded highways/freeways be placed between the lanes of these highways/freeways.

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

**12. 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 crowded highways.

2. We oppose the abandonment of short lines where commodity production puts undue pressure on the highway.

3. We support preservation of 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 Transit

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 non-profit 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 support automatic daytime, low-beam headlights or their equivalent on all new motor vehicles.

10. We support the use of hands free devices for cellular phone use while driving.

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 or improve 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 encourage pedestrian crosswalk lights to include visual countdown timers where appropriate, to allow all individuals to safely cross the street, including those with disabilities.

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

20. We support legislation that would require all vehicle manufacturers to install safety releases inside vehicle trunks.

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

22. We support that license plates be made of lifetime reflective materials and quality, and that legislation should remove the seven

(7) year **replacement** requirements.

23. We believe that all secondary roads should be considered, where needed, for rumble strips so drivers would be alerted and many accidents could be avoided.

24. We believe that no animal **should** be allowed on the lap of a driver, and that any animal in the front seat be properly restrained, and a fine be assessed by the court system on any vehicle operator found driving with an animal on their lap or improperly restrained in the front seat of the vehicle.

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

26. 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.

27. We believe that RCW 46.20.181 should be changed to require that if non-citizen 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.

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

29. 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.

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

## Water 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 main ways 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 and on ready for emergency evacuation or towing of the vessel to the nearest port.**

# Your Senators and Representatives

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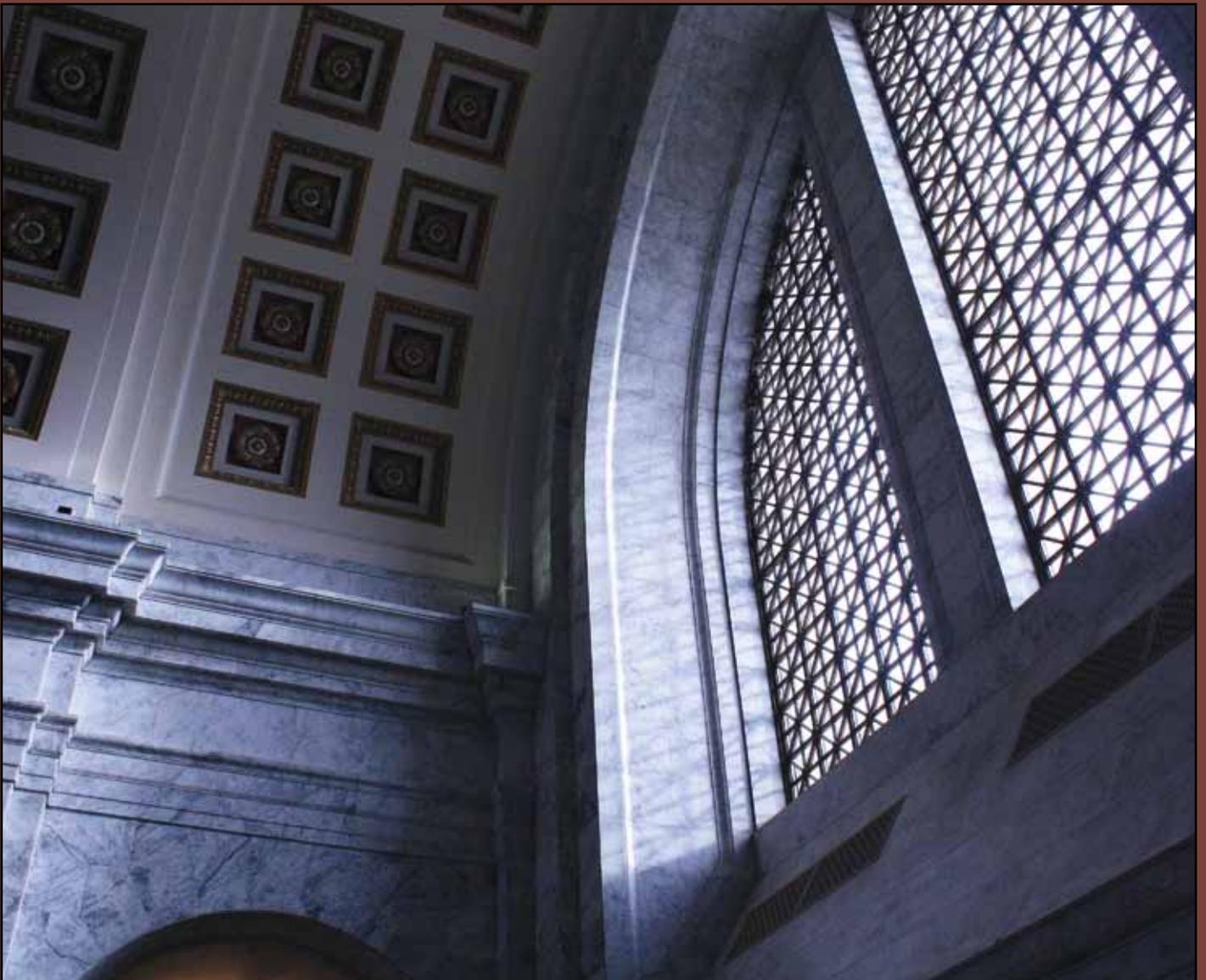
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*In Essentials, Unity; In Non-Essentials, Liberty; In All Things, Charity*