

continued from previous page

- Support federal energy policies to increase domestic natural gas production, reduce U.S. manufacturing costs for crop input materials & promote renewable fuel development & use
- Oppose internal combustion engine bans, restrictions & electric vehicle mandates
- Advocate to add phosphate & potash to the U.S. Department of Interior's critical minerals list



2025 ARA POLICY PRIORITIES

FARM BILL

- Agricultural retailers & distributors play a vital role in US food security
- These businesses are responsible for getting the right crop inputs to farmer customers at the right time, which can be difficult in the short planting timeframe
- Retailers provide crop consulting services & custom pesticide & fertilizer application services to farmers
- Science-based regulations & pesticides oversight must be based on the scientific expertise of career regulators at EPA Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) & state lead agencies
- Requiring National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Pesticide General Permits for pesticide applications already approved under FIFRA is costly & offers no additional environmental protections

ARA'S POSITION

- Support legislation to streamline technical service provider (TSP) certification
- Back legislation to define & standardize plant biostimulants rules
- Support legislation to remove NPDES pesticide general permit requirements
- Support legislation to ensure EPA OPP & state lead agencies have exclusive pesticide regulatory authority with bipartisan language from the 2018 House Farm Bill
- Support legislation to protect uniform pesticide labeling standards rooted in sound science & approved by EPA
- Preserve the crop insurance program, and like critical safety nets
- Work with USDA-Risk Management Agency to modify prevented planting dates to lessen potential impacts on ag retail
- Maintain current acreage dedicated to conservation programs & protect working lands
- Support statistical survey work by the National Agricultural Statistical Service for the Conservation Effects Assessment Project administered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service



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MODERN AG CROP PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY

- The federal government must make decisions based on sound science, peer-reviewed data by following a risk-based approach to protect modern agricultural production technology
- Farmers need crop input supplies (pesticides, fertilizers, biostimulants, seed, etc.) & precision ag technologies

ARA'S POSITION

- Protect farmers' essential tools (seed, pesticide, fertilizer, biostimulants, precision ag tech)
- Support codifying oversight of pesticide registrations & regulations at EPA & state agencies
- Invest in research & development to enhance crop yields & plant health

TRANSPORTATION & SUPPLY CHAIN

- Supply chain disruptions cause major challenges for the ag industry
- Freight rail is a vital link connecting thousands of U.S. manufacturers, farmers, & energy producers with consumers
- Investment in roads, bridges, & waterways is critical to U.S. agricultural economy and global competitiveness

ARA'S POSITION

- Back a five-year reauthorization of Surface Transportation programs that exclude a vehicle-miles traveled fee to avoid undue economic hardship for rural communities
- Support reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Board & provisions to increase shippers rights & competition
- Advocate for an expanded Safe Driver Apprenticeship Pilot Program by allowing more 18- to 20-year-old drivers to participate & adding more opportunities
- Support legislation to allow for a 10% axle variance for dry bulk without increasing overall federal gross vehicle weight limit
- Back Hours of Service (HOS) legislation to eliminate "planting & harvesting" seasonal provisions & authorize a pilot program for farm supply transporters to operate in up to a 200-air mile radius
- Support reforms to the Farm-Related Restricted CDL program

PRO-GROWTH RURAL ECONOMIC POLICY

- Policies promoting free trade of ag products, equipment, & crop input materials (pesticides, fertilizers, seeds) will create opportunities for U.S. agribusinesses & farmers
- Federal tax policies can advance economic growth & repeal tax provisions that impose undue burdens
- There is a growing need for more specialized works in agribusinesses and rural communities
- Continued investment in biofuel research and the development of low-carbon emission technologies enable rural communities to grow economically

ARA'S POSITION

- Work with industry coalitions to continue promoting the development & use of all liquid fuels (oil, gas, biofuels, etc.) to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign sources of energy & related technologies
- Oppose proposed cuts to the Renewable Fuel Standards to avoid devastating impact on ag, rural economies, and stifled investment in ethanol plants throughout the U.S.
- Maintain Stepped-Up Basis, which is critical for family-owned farms to reduce estate tax burdens, prevent forced sales, & support generational continuity
- Support Estate Tax Relief to preserve current enhanced exemption levels protecting family farms from burdensome taxes that threaten business survival
- Back Permanent Lower Individual Tax Rates, which are essential for pass-through agribusinesses to retain income for reinvestment & operations
- Make permanent the 199A Deduction to reinvest in farms & level competition with larger agribusinesses while boosting rural economies
- Protect Section 179 Expensing to invest in machinery & technology by allowing immediate expensing of qualifying capital investments
- Restore 100% Bonus Depreciation to promote growth & efficiency through immediate tax benefits for essential equipment & infrastructure investment
- Maintain 1031 Like-Kind Exchanges for property reinvestment flexibility while supporting adaptation to market & environmental changes.
- Preserve 20% Capital Gains Rate to spur reinvestment & financial viability in this capital-intensive industry
- Reform H-2A program to expand eligible job categories, streamline applications, enable year-round employment, increase worker portability, modernize wage requirements, improve recruitment, & increase flexibility in emergencies

continued on next page