

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT ND GRAIN DEALERS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION
January 19, 2010 – Fargo, ND

#1 - GRAIN ELEVATOR BONDING

Whereas the North Dakota Public Service Commission and the Legislative Interim Agriculture Committee are both looking into the adequacy of bonding requirements on grain elevators, ethanol plants and processors, and

Whereas insolvency problems and farmer losses in the past 20 years have been predominantly from processor operations and the handlers of organic and/or specialty crops, and

Whereas the record of typical grain elevators has been nearly spotless, and

Whereas increasing bond requirements increases costs and may make some elevator companies ineligible for bonds,

Therefore the North Dakota Grain Dealers Association strongly urges the PSC and the Interim Agriculture Committee to focus on any problem areas and not on the industry segment that has shown its responsibility.

In addition, the North Dakota Grain Dealers Association supports the concept of bonds being the determiner of financial strength and opposes any state government expansion to receive and review grain elevator financial statements and make licensing decisions based on that.

In addition, the North Dakota Grain Dealers Association opposes making any state entity the “bonder of last resort” because it puts the state at risk where private surety companies would not accept the risk.

#2 - FEDERAL RAIL LEGISLATION

Whereas captive rail shippers have worked for years to get more protection in federal law and more balance at the Surface Transportation Board, and

Whereas a bipartisan shipper-railroad compromise bill was given unanimous consent out of the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee in mid-December 2009, and

Whereas the bill contains some, but not all, the shipper-friendly provisions this Association has supported in the past, and

Whereas the need for balance in regulatory oversight is important regardless of whether current service levels are adequate or inadequate,

Therefore the North Dakota Grain Dealers Association supports S. 2889, the Surface Transportation Board Reauthorization Act of 2009, now pending before the U.S. Senate, and

The North Dakota Grain Dealers Association also commends and thanks Senator Byron Dorgan for his steadfast work on railroad matters during his entire Congressional career.

#3 - HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION

Whereas America needs a health care system that delivers accessible, affordable, high-quality care, and

Whereas more than 80% of Americans are happy with their employer-sponsored health insurance and the care they currently receive, and

Whereas we need to protect what works in our health care system, and focus our energy and resources on addressing real problems within the system, and

Whereas the 2000-2400 page health care legislation passed by the House and Senate will lead us down the road to total government control of our health. More government control will undermine employer-sponsored coverage and is the first step toward a government takeover of health care similar to Europe and Canada, with fewer covered procedures, shortages of willing medical providers, and more government bureaucracy.

Whereas the legislation creates scores of new agencies, boards, commissions, councils and programs that will produce thousands of pages of new rules and regulations, which will increase instead of decrease total system cost,

Therefore the North Dakota Grain Dealers Association opposes this legislation that will bring about a government takeover of our health care system. The Association supports tort reform and free market competition, opposes socialization of health care, and oppose inclusion of any public option that will eventually crowd out private insurance including the ND Grain Dealer Association self-funded health trust. The Association demands that all federal officials from the President on down, all members of Congress, and all federal employees be subject to the same health care system as they enact and administer for other Americans.

#4 - CAP AND TRADE

Whereas the cap and trade legislation now pending in Congress would place an enormous burden on the economy by dramatically increasing the cost of transportation fuels, home energy costs and food prices, and

Whereas the legislation would negatively impact virtually every aspect of the agriculture community, and

Whereas the cap and trade bill is in reality a hidden tax on business and consumers, including farmers and those who distribute our nation's agricultural products, and

Whereas this legislation has already been criticized by many Senators and Congressmen who come from farm belt states, as a bill that would harm growers, small businesses and individual citizens at a time when our national economy is still struggling,

Therefore the North Dakota Grain Dealers Association hereby states is opposition to the proposed cap and trade legislation and urges our North Dakota Congressional delegation to vigorously oppose this legislation as it would have a devastating impact on the agriculture industry, small businesses, consumers and the nation as a whole.