

MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE



2024

LEGISLATIVE POLICY

www.michiganstategrange.org

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THE GRANGE is a nationwide fraternal organization of people interested in agriculture, their rural community and the family. As a group, these people achieve what individuals cannot do alone. Granger’s voluntarily share their resources, talents and skills in providing leadership in community, state and national issues. Through the local Grange, each member is offered the opportunity to be a part of a movement which seeks to build a better state and nation by providing services to meet human needs. Through community service, leadership training, legislative action and member services, members are able to build an organization which meets their needs and serves their community.

GRANGE DECLARATION OF PURPOSES - GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

We must resolve to labor for the good of our organization, our country and mankind.

We propose meeting together, talking together, working together. We shall constantly strive to secure harmony, good will and brotherhood.

To our business interests, we desire to bring producer and consumer into the most direct friendly relations possible.

We shall advance the cause of education.

Deaf Awareness is the Grange health program, aiding and assisting deaf and hard of hearing people, promoting hearing protection, educating members and non-members about deafness and the hazards of noise.

The Grange - National, State, County, and Local - is not a partisan or party organization.

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AGRICULTURE POLICY

FARM PROGRAMS

1. FARM PRICES versus RETAIL PRICES

Michigan State Grange petition Congress to investigate the inequity of farm prices versus retail prices in regard to the amount of income received by the farmer for his products versus the amount paid by the consumer and ask Congress to take action to correct unfair balances to assure the farmer a fair price for his products, and that the cost of machinery, seed, fertilizers, labor, and other aspects of farm production be considered.

2. ABRUPT TERMINATION OF FARM PROGRAMS

Michigan State Grange opposes the abrupt termination of farm programs as being decidedly against the public interest as well as agricultural interest.

3. NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Michigan State Grange urges support of the Soil Conservation Service due to the vital role it plays in the farm program. Further, that any reorganization of the USDA shall return the NRCS to the Department of Agriculture.

4. FARM LAND DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS

Michigan State Grange urges research by the Michigan Legislature to explore the Development Rights type of programs in other states, where the farm owner sells the development rights to the state and the land has to be kept in agriculture use.

5. FARM WASTE MANAGEMENT

Michigan State Grange urges the Michigan State Legislature to make sure that no one can take away the right of the farmers to use manure from farm animals as fertilizer on the fields, further, the Michigan State University Extension Service do all they can to continue to educate urban and city citizens to eliminate anger and frustration against the farmer on this subject.

6. AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY

Michigan State Grange supports the surface water quality movement, and voluntary implementation of grass buffer strips along drains, creeks, and streams, further, the Michigan State Grange encourages that grass buffer strips and riparian corridors be promoted and implemented along drain, creeks, and streams for non agricultural land uses: residential, commercial, industrial, etc. The Michigan State Grange also recognizes that some filter strips need additional technical assistance for appropriate erosion control measures which can be provided through (NRCS) Natural Resources Conservation Service formerly the Soil Conservation Service.

7. VANISHING FARMLAND AND URBAN SPRAWL

Michigan State Grange reaffirms its policy that state and federal governments be urged to strengthen, expand and enforce its farmland protection programs, and that federal and state estate tax laws and local tax assessments encourage farm families to keep their land in agriculture by holding down and/or lowering taxes, and to enable farmers to pass it on to future generations without prohibitive taxation.

8. FOOD SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION

Michigan State Grange opposes the concentrated marketing, growing and distribution of animals and farm produce by large corporations other than farm cooperatives in the United States.

9. ACREAGE ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM

Michigan State Grange proposes an acreage adjustment program to remove asparagus acreage from production and put the acreage into the conservation reserve program, further that growers be paid a direct payment. Per idled acre either as a lump sum for the entire 10 year program or on a pro-rated yearly basis.

10. AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM PAYMENTS

Michigan State Grange strongly urges that the U.S.D.A. and Farm Service Agency scrutinize all subsidies more carefully so that all qualified family farmers receive market loss assistance payments, and other government farm program payments.

11. USDA PAYMENT PROCEDURE

Michigan State Grange recommends the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to streamline procedures that will expedite implementation of the disaster and market loss program payments.

12. MAEAP (MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSURANCE PROGRAM)

Michigan State Grange encourages all agricultural producers to strive for MAEAP (Michigan Agricultural environmental assurance Program) verification.

13. DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Michigan State Grange urges disaster assistance to all states farmers in a designated disaster county (s)

14. DUST THAT IS GENERATED WHEN HARVESTING—2011

Michigan State Grange recommends to the state of Michigan and the U.S. Government that no laws or regulations be adopted that would require any producers of food to manage the control of dust when they are harvesting their crops that feed the population of the world.

15. EQUINE ACTIVITY ACT—2011

Michigan State Grange urges the Michigan Department of Agriculture to educate the public about the existence of the Equine Activities Act.

16. CROP INSURANCE — 2017

Michigan State Grange opposes any budget cuts to the Risk Management Agency and the Federal Crop Insurance Program

AGRICULTURE EXPORTS

1. AGRICULTURE EXPORTS

Michigan State Grange favors an American Export Policy, which provides U.S. Farmers with dependable markets for their produce and recommends that restrictions which may be imposed by the United States Government be done only if our nation's interests are threatened by foreign action detrimental to our economic or political well being.

2. EXPANDING FOREIGN MARKETS

Michigan State Grange commends the U.S. Government for efforts to expand the foreign markets for American grains.

DAIRY

1. MICHIGAN DAIRY POOL

Michigan State Grange endorses the concept and principal of legislation that provides for fair and equitable pooling of milk producer funds for the purpose of equitable payment to all milk producers in Michigan; the Michigan Department of Agriculture be the administrator of this mandatory pooling fund and that the administrative costs be deducted from the pool fund and be kept at a minimum.

2. FEDERAL MILK ORDER

Michigan State Grange favors retention of the Federal Milk Order System.

3. MANDATORY CHECK-OFF

Michigan State Grange supports a continuation of the mandatory check-off for advertising and product development at the dollar amount as recommended for milk.

4. MICHIGAN DAIRYMAN MARKET PROGRAM FOR GRADE "A" MILK

Michigan State Grange supports the Dairymen Market Program for Grand A milk.

IMPORTS

1. APPLES

Michigan State Grange supports tariffs on all imported apple juice concentrate.

2. MILK PROTEIN CONCENTRATE

Michigan State Grange supports Legislation which will apply tariffs on imports of dairy proteins including milk protein concentrate (MPC) and casein.

3. CHINESE FRESH APPLE IMPORTS

Michigan State Grange supports the efforts of US Apple and its partner organizations to prolong as long as possible the approval of phyto-sanitary standards to provide a window for research which will allow the American apple industry to become the most competitive, lowest cost producer of fresh apples.

GRAIN STORAGE

1. GRAIN STORAGE IN ELEVATORS

Michigan State Grange recommends an enactment of laws upon determination of the facts that the grain is only being stored and applicable fees are being paid and have been paid, that ownership of the grain is still with the grower or farmer and not with the storage facility, be it an elevator or other business, and that the grower or farmer be allowed to remove said grain immediately upon the filing of the bankruptcy.

2. GRAIN STORAGE PAYMENT RATE

Michigan State Grange recommends that the government pay the farmer the same rate for storage as they pay the elevator.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. TARIFF ON IMPORTED HONEY

Michigan State Grange recommends the enactment of a realistic tariff on honey so that American bees can help American farmers produce the food the world needs.

2. MEAT INSPECTION RULES

Michigan State Grange favors trade agreements that will assure imported meat and poultry inspection standards protect the health of the U.S. consumer.

3. ETHANOL BLEND IN GASOLINE

Michigan State Grange urges the Michigan Legislature and Congress of the United States to impose legislation that requires a 10% blend of ethanol made from grain be used in all gasoline's sold for motor fuel.

4. PROMOTION OF ETHANOL

Michigan State Grange encourages an advertising program which will promote the use of ethanol made from corn products.

5. AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Michigan State Grange favors increased funding to Michigan State University to be used for research and development of products that utilize more of the goods produced on Michigan farms and ranches.

6. SAFETY EDUCATION ON FARMS

Michigan State Grange urges adoption of a safety program to promote awareness of potentially hazardous conditions on farms and ranches, and recommends that efforts be made in cooperation with other groups and safety councils to develop a comprehensive education program designed to help reduce injuries and deaths to children on farms and ranches.

7. FARM LABOR ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Michigan State Grange opposes the activities of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) in Michigan.

8. DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS FOODS

Michigan State Grange favors universal guidelines be established and followed, so that the distribution of surplus foods be uniform throughout the nation, in accord with the standards of living in the area.

9. FOOD PROCESSING PLANTS

Michigan State Grange favors determined efforts to encourage the locating of food processing plants in Michigan.

10. FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF U.S. FARM LANDS

Michigan State Grange requests the Michigan Legislature to enact legislation prohibiting foreign investors from purchasing or owning, or holding vested interests in, Michigan farm land unless they become permanent residents within the area of ownership and become U.S. citizens.

11. COLLECTION POINTS FOR FARM CHEMICAL CONTAINERS

Michigan State Grange supports the use of area collection points for farm chemical containers and unused chemical, and encourage the use thereof.

12. FARMLAND TRUSTS

Michigan State Grange favors the establishment of farmland trusts to purchase farmland development rights so that this land may remain in farming for future generations.

13. NEW USES FOR SOYBEANS

Michigan State Grange supports the National Soy diesel Board in its efforts to expand their efforts to help the Soy Bean Growers of the United States.

14. STRAY VOLTAGE

Michigan State Grange urges all power companies to work with, and respond to the Public Service Commission and their recommendations, current and future legislation, and the National Electrical Safety Code to correct and avoid stray voltage problems on livestock farms.

15. MICHIGAN DRAIN CODE

Michigan State Grange favors the review of the Michigan Drain Code and work in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service Districts as much as it is possible when dealing with farm agricultural issues.

16. FARMLAND PRESERVATION

Michigan State Grange urges the state requirements for a single resident building site be amended to read not more than 2 acres unless regulated by county or township zoning.

17. MORE SLAUGHTER HOUSE INSPECTORS NEEDED

Michigan State Grange urges the MDA and USDA to increase the number of meat inspectors to inspect all slaughter houses.

18. KEEP THE WASTE OUT OF MICHIGAN

Michigan State Grange urges the Michigan Legislature to pass laws to prevent other states from dumping their wastes on Michigan landfills.

19. FORMATION OF A GRANGE COOPERATIVE

Michigan State Grange asks the National Grange to look into the pricing of agricultural inputs, and to look into the possibility of getting price breaks on seed, chemicals, and fertilizer by the pooling of Grange member's orders through the Grange, as a group such as in a Grange Advantage-type program.

20. THE TERMINATOR

Michigan State Grange supports legislation that would require joint regulation of the introduction of seed products covered by U.S. Patent US5723765 “control of Plant Gene Expression” (a.k.a. “Terminator” Seed technology), by the United States Department of Agriculture and the United States Food and Drug Administration, and further, the Michigan State Grange supports legislation that would prohibit the inclusion of seed products covered by U.S. Patent US5723765 “Control of Plant Gene Expression” (a.k.a. “Terminator” Seed technology) in any foreign aid packages.

21. LABELING OF ALL AGRICULTURE FOOD AND FIBER PRODUCTS — 2014

Michigan State Grange favors the labeling of all imported and domestic food and fiber products by country of origin.

22. AGRICULTURE SCIENCE

Michigan State Grange encourages the U.S. Department of Agriculture to continue to assist the companies that produce seeds for crops in their efforts to produce seed that will produce crops that will increase production, and help control insects and weeds, and further urges the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the seed producing companies be required to produce and retain viable seed stock that will insure there is a sufficient reserve to produce the seed stock, at a reasonable cost, for the world agriculture community.

23. FREE TRADE

Michigan State Grange urges that all products and crops being imported to the United States be taxed, and further that NAFTA should be revoked.

24. FARM INCOME

Michigan State Grange urge Congress and the Department of Agriculture to work seriously to restore a fair return to the agricultural producer so he can maintain a fair income for his cost and labor that he has to put into the production of food and fiber products.

25. ABANDONED - NEGLECTED ORCHARDS

Michigan State Grange supports legislation that will indemnify property owners for removal of these orchards.

26. PROCESSOR BANKRUPTCY

Michigan State Grange supports legislation which would put agriculture including livestock and dairy producers as secured creditors in bankruptcy cases.

27. CARBON CREDITS

Michigan State Grange favors a nationwide program of purchasing carbon credits.

28. FARM LAND PRESERVATION

Michigan State Grange encourages all townships to provide for land use preservation in their zoning ordinances and land use plans by permitting the development practices such as cluster housing development, multi housing development, multi story shopping, malls and medical service as well as others that are, or may become available.

29. RIGHT TO FARM

Michigan State Grange supports, all new Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO'S) be required to have a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) and a sitting plan before construction can begin, and also that MDA do an annual review of the operation to see all laws, rules and regulations are being followed, and that if all rules and regulations are being followed , that the operation be granted a storm water exemption and protection from harassment.

30. DRAINAGE INTERFERENCE AND OBSTRUCTION

Michigan State Grange supports action by the Michigan legislative that would prohibit any obstructions and interference with county drains, and that allows the Drain Commission to remove the obstruction or interference in a time frame that minimizes damage to agricultural production in the drainage district. Cost for all damages should be assessed to the parties responsible for that damage.

31. FOOD SAFETY

Michigan State Grange believes government regulators should have sound scientific evidence before shutting down processing plants and issuing warnings on unsafe foods, and that processing plants be inspected and allowed to open as soon as corrections have been made.

32. AMENDMENT TO THE OPEN BURNING ACT

Michigan State Grange supports an amendment to the Open Burning Act, which permits burning of untreated wooden apple bins, the same as the exception as the diseased bee hives.

33. SURPLUS FOOD PURCHASES

Michigan State Grange encourages increased USDA purchases of surplus commodities for various feeding programs.

34. HEALTH INSPECTIONS

Michigan State Grange urges that no more cuts be made in the number or frequency of inspectors and inspections in the food industry, in order to assure sanitary compliance and to bolster consumer confidence, and that the fines for the non-compliance of rules and regulations be brought up to date.

35. CONCERNING HONEYBEE COLONY COLLAPSE

Michigan State Grange strongly urges the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and other appropriate federal and state agencies to respond to the protection of honeybee colony collapse as quickly as possible. Highest priority should be given to quickly and unequivocally establishing whether or not there is a link between nicotinoid and neonicotinoid pesticides and colony collapse. If a definite connection is found between the use of nicotinoid and neonicotinoid pesticides and the death of honeybees, immediate action should be taken to curtail or eliminate the use of nicotinoid and neonicotinoid pesticides where bees are used for pollination.

36. SOIL AND SEDIMENTATION ACT

Michigan State Grange supports Section 9115A of the Michigan Soil and sedimentation Act that exempts certain earth change activities such as stump removal, postholes, gardening and the

planting of trees and shrubs from needing to obtain a permit. Also the Michigan State Grange support amendments to this act that exempt all agriculture-based operations from obtaining permits.

37. GASOLINE INSPECTORS

Michigan State Grange encourages the hiring of more Gasoline Inspectors to inspect the gasoline around the state and make sure we are getting what we are paying so much for.

ORGANIZATIONS, AGENCIES, ETC.

1. SUPPORT FOR THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Michigan State Grange commends and thanks the Michigan Department of Agriculture for their continued concern and solutions to problems concerning agriculture.

2. H.U.D.

Michigan State Grange urges Congress to carefully scrutinize H.U.D. and Rural Development Programs.

3. AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSIONERS

Michigan State Grange favors the present system of appointment of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Commissioners, and the appointment of the Directors of these Commissions.

4. SUPPORT FOR MSU EXTENSION/VETERINARY PROGRAM

Michigan State Grange reaffirms its support of the Michigan State University Extension and Veterinary Programs.

5. EXTENSION FUNDING

Michigan State Grange recommends that the federal government increase the funding of Extension and supports the appropriation of funds for an Extension program that will meet the needs of rural people, both agricultural and non-agricultural, and that 4-H programs be funded at a level to include all boys and girls, including those who are disabled.

6. NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE BUDGET FOR MICHIGAN

Michigan State Grange urges the Michigan Legislature to adequately finance the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

7. RURAL DEVELOPMENT ADMIN. RETENTION OF FARM OWNERSHIP

Michigan State Grange recommends: the Rural Development Administration should not retain ownership of farms but should put them up for sale and if these are not sold they must be withheld from active production; further, that conservation practices be instigated.

8. MICHIGAN STATE FAIR

Michigan State Grange supports the Michigan State Fair which promotes agriculture, thereby bringing together rural and urban people in their understanding of each other and the process of providing food for Michigan residents, as well as for other parts of the United States and the world.

9. SOYBEAN FERTILIZER PRODUCTS

Michigan State Grange commends Michigan State University for the important research and encourage the further use of the soybean fertilizer product.

10 T.B. IN MICHIGAN

Michigan State Grange urges that the Michigan Department of Agriculture and the Department of Natural Resources share information and work together to eradicate Bovine and Cervine TB in Michigan.

11. WATER REGULATIONS

Michigan State Grange supports including sensible use of water for irrigation in Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices (GAMPS) and educational programs for producers and handlers emphasizing water conservation measures and oppose permits for agricultural water use, fees for reporting water use and any attempt to restrict agricultural water use.

12. COMPROMISING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER'S LIVELIHOOD

Michigan State Grange strongly believes that food and food producers should never be used as political pawns for homeland security, and food producing businesses which leave the United States and go to foreign countries for economic benefit, should be required to pay tariffs on all finished goods on products shipped back into the United States.

13. DEQ OVERSIGHT

Michigan State Grange urges our Legislature to monitor the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and take whatever action is necessary to insure that scientific rather than political principals are followed.

14. CHILD LABOR LAW CHANGES IN AGRICULTURE—2011

Michigan State Grange urges the National Grange to strongly oppose the movement by U.S. Department of Labor and their attempt to eliminate children under the age of 16 from agricultural employment, and further that Michigan State Grange propose that current U.S. Department of labor law already adequately protects children under the age of 16 pertaining to agricultural activities.

15. CONGRESSIONAL INACTION—2013

Michigan State Grange recommends that Congress move forward on a new Farm Bill.

16. IMMIGRATION INFORM INACTION—2013

Michigan State Grange recommends that Congress move forward on immigration reform measures.

17. MICHIGAN FARMERS HALL OF FAME —2016

Michigan State Grange suggests to the Granges in Michigan to donate funds to the Michigan Farmers Hall of Fame for its operation and are urged to find possible inductees to the Michigan Farmers Hall of Fame.

18. HEIFER INTERNATIONAL – 2021

Michigan State Grange supports the concept of the Heifer International Program and encourage our local Granges to make contact with them for program material and more information.

EDUCATION AND HEALTH POLICY

EDUCATION

1. SCHOOL REFORM

Michigan State Grange supports the following school reform concepts:

1. That strong laws be enacted to make schools safe havens from weapons, alcohol, drugs and that schools expel any student under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or found in possession of any weapon.

2. That schools provide special training and retraining for teachers, so that they might maintain and improve the discipline and instructional goals aligned with the state recommended model core curriculum.

3. That small schools especially in rural areas be encouraged to work with neighboring schools to provide high school course work that would not be affordable to the individual schools.

2. TEACHER CONTRACTS

Michigan State Grange strongly urges the bipartisan cooperation of the Executive and Legislative branches of the Michigan government in finalizing state school funding by the spring of each year.

3. TEACHER TENURE

Michigan State Grange recommends that all teachers, including those with tenure, should be evaluated on a yearly basis, or more often if needed, and continued employment be based on evaluated teaching skills rather than just years employed.

4. RESPECT FOR TEACHERS AND THE FLAG

Michigan State Grange favors respect for the American Flag at all levels of education. Further, that respect for teachers in the classroom be upheld.

5. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Michigan State Grange recommends that the Michigan Department of Education and the Michigan Legislature continue to research and investigate optimum means for providing meaningful educational experiences for the students in our schools. This includes curriculum, structure of the school day, and length of the school year.

6. REQUIRED COURSES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Michigan State Grange recommends that any legislation requiring statewide public school courses incorporate a balanced approach to required courses.

7. SCHOOL BUSING

Michigan State Grange recommends a change in the present Michigan School Code to read that transportation be provided for children living one and one-half miles or more from school.

8. EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Michigan State Grange encourages the Michigan Department of Education and the Federal Department of Education to continue to explore alternatives to the present educational system with the goal of expecting and receiving scholastic excellence from Michigan students.

9. SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION

Michigan State Grange opposes consolidation of small districts into larger school districts.

10. TUITION TAX CREDITS

Michigan State Grange continues to speak out in opposition to the implementation of a national system of tuition tax credits, and works to promote a greater awareness of the need to fully support and strengthen the public school system.

11. SNOW DAY MAKEUP

Michigan State Grange recommends to the Michigan Legislature that legislation be enacted to allow up to four grace days for inclement weather to all K-12 school districts.

12. PG RATED MOVIES IN SCHOOLS

Michigan State Grange opposes the use of PG rated movies and videos that have not been approved by a committee consisting of teachers, parents, and students who deal with school matters.

13. EDUCATION LOANS - DELINQUENT

Michigan State Grange recommends that the United States Government continue its strong policy towards the collection of delinquent educational loans.

14. FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION FOR PREGNANT TEENAGERS

Michigan State Grange supports the funneling of education funds, through the public school system, to serve the teen-age pregnant population in Family Life Centers, or similar programs by local schools, rather than setting up new government programs.

15. ENGLISH, THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE U.S.

Michigan State Grange recommends to the United States congress that laws be enacted that would designate English as the official language of the United States, and further recommends that each immigrant to the United States be versed in the English language prior to obtaining citizenship, and commends all ethnic groups who strive to keep their traditions and language a part of their heritage, but recommends that each family be encouraged to use English as their primary family language.

16. TEACHING OF READING

Michigan State Grange urges local boards of education to make the teaching of reading skills of top priority, and encourages Grange members to offer their services to schools and libraries in the promotion of reading skills.

17. LITERACY

Michigan State Grange strongly urges local Granges and individuals to become involved and supportive of literacy programs as a community service.

18. EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Michigan State Grange supports that students being provided with special education services, where appropriate, be provided with individual instruction with special instructors to meet the need of special education students, and that adequate funding be provided for this method of instruction.

19. CITIZENSHIP IN PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Michigan State Grange requests the State Department of Education develop a curriculum K-12 that would teach basic facts about the flag code, respect and conduct, that are expected of good citizens.

20. EYE BANK DONORS NEEDED

Michigan State Grange fully supports and promotes the eye bank program and encourage Subordinate and Pomona Granges to promote the eye bank program in their areas.

21. ORGAN DONORS NEEDED

Michigan State Grange fully supports and promotes the “Gift of Life” Donor Program and urges Subordinate and Pomona Granges to promote the “Gift of Life” Program in their areas.

22. QUALIFIED TEACHER

Michigan State Grange supports legislation requiring that all school teachers in the state of Michigan pass a competency test in order to teach in their particular subject areas.

23. SHAKEN CHILD SYNDROME

Michigan State Grange urges legislation be enacted that would require that the “Shaken Child Syndrome” be taught in all parental and pre-natal classes in the United States and legislation should convey that the damage caused to a child by shaking should be graphically included in the instruction of the “Shaken Child Syndrome.”

24. AGRI-SCIENCE EDUCATION AND FFA PROPOSED MERGER

Michigan State Grange opposes the merger of vocational Agriculture, Agri-Science and FFA programs with the Department of Recreation and the Department of Natural Resources of Michigan State University.

25. MILK VENDING MACHINES IN SCHOOLS

Michigan State Grange favors milk vending machines being placed in all schools.

26. FINE ARTS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Michigan State Grange supports the continuation and/or establishing of fine arts programs in the school districts.

27. “NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND”

Michigan State Grange encourages the federal government to provide adequate funding for federally mandated programs.

28. FINANCIAL AID

Michigan State Grange suggests that the guidelines for financial aid laws be revised so independent students aged 25 and under be eligible to receive financial aid for their higher education.

29. LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE TO ESTABLISH MANDATORY SCHOOL FUNDING LEVELS

Michigan State Grange opposes any legislative initiative to establish mandatory school funding Levels.

30. VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Michigan State Grange recommends a return of vocational education curriculum to high schools, community colleges and trade schools and the funding for these courses.

31. “NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND” IN MICHIGAN—2012 (Revised in 2018)

Michigan State Grange supports the inaction of legislation in the State of Michigan, to establish and protect both financial and programmatic support for the education and advancement of elementary and secondary-age students who perform above the minimum grade requirements.

32. EDUCATION REFORM—2012

Michigan State Grange recommends:

1. Strengthen languages in current law and encourage school districts to allow vocational and technical training classes to meet graduation requirements.
2. Restore added cost funding for vocational training programs.

33. CHARGING TO PLAY HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Michigan State Grange recommends that all schools consider eliminating charges for sports and work towards keeping these boys and girls busy with school activities and out of trouble.

34. CURSIVE WRITING AND PENMANSHIP -2018

Michigan State Grange recommends that cursive writing and penmanship lessons be integrated in school curriculum here in Michigan and Nationwide.

35. PUBLIC EDUCATIONS STANDARDS —2018

Michigan State Grange opposes legislation that lowers education standards, guidelines, and funding which are intended to provide quality education for all students as their goal.

36. PUBLIC EDUCATION —2018

Michigan State Grange opposes Federal legislation that attaches constraints on public schools for which no funding is provided.

37. CHILDHOOD LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT – 202

Michigan State Grange supports legislation directing the State Education Department and other agencies to develop resources for assessing language development in children’s language and communication methods from birth to 5 years. Further, we support this policy being extended to children with other underlying causes of language delay.

DEAF EDUCATION

1. EDUCATION FOR TEACHERS OF DEAF STUDENTS

Michigan State Grange recommends that teachers be required to study deafness so they will be qualified to teach both deaf and hearing students, thereby giving the deaf students the same learning advantages as the hearing student.

2. SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS' PAY -- Michigan School for the Deaf
Michigan State Grange recommends that the Michigan State Board of Education adjust the pay for the teachers of the Michigan School for the Deaf to be equal to the pay of teachers in the public schools in the cities of Michigan near their locale.

3. SIGN LANGUAGE

Michigan State Grange recommends that Public Act 220, the handicapper Civil Rights Act, be amended as follows:

1. To make it illegal to deny deaf children or adults access to sign language and the right to use it any time.

2. Require that the Michigan School for the Deaf (MSD) be given the highest priority, as the most viable and least restrictive environment available to most deaf children; that it be funded to serve at least 600 deaf children of which must be of a single impairment, rather than multiply-impaired-paired; that the MSD once again offer on a statewide basis, admission to students in the kindergarten through fifth grade levels; and that the Michigan Department of Education restore economic incentives for local school districts to send deaf children to MSD; and that the Governor appoint the members of the MSD Advisory Council, with a direct relationship with the Michigan Commission on Handicapper Concerns.

3. Require that all state-funded deaf education teacher training programs have Division on Deafness approved sign language classes and that all certified teachers of the deaf acquire quality assurance (QA) certification within two years of the effective date of the proposed amendment to P.A. 220.

4. INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FOR DISABLED STUDENTS

Michigan State Grange favors a system of education for all deaf and hard of hearing students that will be most beneficial to the student, opposes a mandatory system of education for all disabled students, namely inclusive education, and supports legislation that will provide for the assessment of each child's needs and allow the student to attend the school that meets his/her individual needs

5. EDUCATION FOR DEAF & HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN

Michigan State Grange favors an educational environment for deaf and hard of hearing children which shall be an education in which their unique communication mode is respected, utilized and developed to an appropriate level of proficiency; and placement best suited to the child's individual needs include, but not be limited to social, emotional, cultural needs, age, hearing loss, academic level, modes of communication, styles of learning, motivational level, and family support. Further, deaf and hard of hearing children have an education in which teachers, psychologists, speech therapists, assessors, administrators, interpreters and other personnel understand the unique nature of deafness and are specifically trained to work with deaf and hard of hearing children and in which their teachers and interpreters are proficient in the primary language mode of those children. Further, parents of deaf and hard of hearing children, deaf and hard of hearing people, teachers and professionals trained in the area of education of the deaf assist in determining the extent, contest, and purpose of the educational program, and consider particularly those program options that provide the pupil with an appropriate and equal opportunity for communication access, including the state school for the deaf, which may be the least restrictive environment for a deaf or hard of hearing child.

6. EDUCATION OF THE DEAF ACT

Michigan State Grange strongly urges continuation of the Education of the Deaf Act to provide maximum benefit for deaf and hard of hearing persons, both in programs and services, including funding for Gallaudet University and National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID).

7. SOUND SYSTEMS IN SCHOOLS

Michigan State Grange favors a law that in all schools, public and private, sound systems in every classroom to assure hard of hearing students the same quality of Education as hearing students.

HEALTH

1. LABELING OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS

Michigan State Grange supports legislation requiring labeling of any and all genetically engineered food products available to the consumer.

2. WIC (WOMEN, INFANT, CHILDREN) PROGRAM

Michigan State Grange supports continuation and expansion of the WIC program funding for the purpose of reaching more eligible cases and preventing the problems of malnutrition in infants, children , and pregnant women.

3. SULFITE REGULATIONS

Michigan State Grange recommends to the United States Food and Drug Administration that a ban be placed on the use of sulfites on fresh fruits and vegetables in restaurants not only on salads but also in their kitchens, and recommends that an import restriction be placed on the importation of food from countries who are unwilling to follow the production guidelines required of the American farmer and industry.

4. NICOTINE IN CIGARETTES

Michigan State Grange supports legislation to control the amount of nicotine the manufacturer may put into cigarettes.

5. FOOD SAFETY

Michigan State Grange recommends establishing more stringent guidelines for inspection of meat by the Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service.

6. ALTERNATIVE APPROACH TO CURE CANCER

Michigan State Grange encourages research on the alternative treatments, such as acupuncture, hypnosis, massage therapy, prayer and meditation, which may be used in conjunction with standard treatments that are showing results in the fight of cancer.

7. MICROWAVE POPCORN TOXINS

Michigan State Grange urges Safety Regulations be listed on every microwaveable bag of popcorn as to the danger of breathing the fumes after popping.

8. FIRST AID CLASSES

Michigan State Grange encourages the students to avail themselves of any opportunity to take basic first aid in their Geographical area.

9. HEALTHY HUNGER-FREE KIDS ACT—2012

Michigan State Grange urge Legislation to repeal the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act and allow the local communities to make their own guidelines on school lunches to reduce child obesity, and further that the local communities making their own guidelines, be encouraged to look at alternative ways to reduce child obesity, such as how school lunches are prepared (bakes vs. fried) , requiring physical education classes, and eliminating unhealthy snacks and soda pop from vending machines.

10. MORE RECOGNITION AND FURTHER STUDY OF LYME DISEASE

Michigan State Grange encourages the Center of Disease Control to look into further studies on the dangers of ticks and what they can do to a person, and to make more information available to the medical profession and public.

HEALTH CARE

1. HEALTH CARE

Michigan State Grange is opposed to the adoption of a health care plan similar to Canada's for use in the United States.

2. RURAL HEALTH CARE

Michigan State Grange supports legislation that would allow the state to bond to create a fund for low interest loans to rural community hospitals in Michigan and to also address the concerns of a possible health care crisis in rural Michigan.

3. LONG TERM HEALTH CARE COSTS

Michigan State Grange supports the efforts of the coalition of organizations seeking solutions to long-term health care costs.

4. MONITORING MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

Michigan State Grange recommends to U.S. Congressmen and Senators that they support the concept that would establish a national computer system to monitor those medical practitioners who have been found guilty of malpractice.

5. COST OF MALPRACTICE INSURANCE

Michigan State Grange supports the medical profession, the judicial process, insurance companies, and the legislature to help establish guidelines which will reduce the cost of malpractice insurance.

6. MEDICARE PAYMENTS

Michigan State Grange urges that either longer hospital care, or home health care for Medicare patients be adequately funded and the compensation rate be programmed in accordance with the rate of inflation or deflation of the economy.

7. MEDICARE AND MEDICAID ALLOWANCES

Michigan State Grange urges that lists be made available of those physicians who will accept payment in full from Medicare and Medicaid so that people may have a knowledge of fees and fee schedules in advance, and that the Michigan Medical Society require the posting of such information in the doctors' offices and emergency rooms.

8. MEDICARE CUTS AND TAX CUTS

Michigan State Grange opposes any legislation that both reduces taxes and at the same time cuts Medicare.

9. MEDICARE COST INCREASES

Michigan State Grange supports a graduated cost plan that relates increased Medicare costs to income.

10. HOSPITAL COST CONTAINMENT

Michigan State Grange recommends that studies be initiated by comprehensive health planning commissions in regional areas leading to holding down general hospital costs within the State of Michigan.

11. HEALTH CARE REFORM-Infant Hearing Testing & Hearing Aids for Children

Michigan State Grange recommends that any future Health Care Reform Package include coverage for infant hearing testing and hearing aids for children.

12. MENTAL HEALTH AND MEDICATION

Michigan State Grange urges the study of the issues of Mental Health, to bring recommendation to the 1999 Annual Convention, particularly regarding the issue of monitoring medication.

13. INCREASED HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS WITH INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE DIABETES AND OTHER LONG TERM ILLNESSES

Michigan State Grange supports the adoption of any legislation, either State or Federal, that would prevent increases in the cost of health insurance of individuals with specific chronic illnesses.

14. VA HOSPITALS

Michigan State Grange recommends that the services of the VA hospitals be maintained and further that the VA hospitals remain in current localities whenever possible.

15. MEDICARE

Michigan State Grange recommends that Congress investigate the service and courtesy of the Medicare system, and take corrective action so it is possible to talk directly to someone who can help resolve problems.

16. SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH FAIRNESS ACT

Michigan State Grange supports legislation such as "The Small Business Health Fairness Act" or any other legislation which would allow professional associations to offer members group health insurance on a national basis thus making it more affordable.

17. AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

Michigan State Grange favors legislation which will provide low cost or affordable health care to all citizens while maintaining quality health care.

18. PATIENT SAFETY

Michigan State Grange requests that Michigan legally require hospitals to report adverse events that cause the need for further treatment or death and that Grange members be made aware of ways to take charge of their own health.

19. HEALTH INSURANCE

Michigan State Grange continues to pursue medical coverage for Grange members.

20. CNA TRAINING

Michigan State Grange urges legislation that requires Certified Nurses Assistants to receive six months of training for state certification.

21. SUFFICIENT NURSING CARE FOR NURSING HOME FACILITIES—2010

Michigan State Grange urges the State of Michigan to diligently follow up with the nursing home facilities in this state to make sure nursing care requirements are being met and further that the Federal Government do their part to enforce these requirements in all states so that the patients are being cared for in the best way possible.

22. MANDATORY VACCINE OF SCHOOL CHILDREN—2013

Michigan State Grange supports passage of legislation in the State of Michigan, to eliminate exemptions/waivers from the established vaccination requirements published in the Entry Requirements for All Public and Non-Public Schools, with the exception of medical exemptions provided specifically for the protection of a given patient to whom a particular vaccination represents a significant personal health risk, as established through medically-and scientifically-justified criteria, and further be it that Michigan State Grange advocates the vaccination of all children not attending Michigan's public and non-public schools, such as those being home schooled, to the standards established in the Entry Requirements, and further be it that Michigan State Grange additionally advocates the further immunization of children, at the medically appropriate age, against Influenza, Rotavirus, Human Pappilomavirus (HPV), and Hepatitis A.

23. HEALTH CARE COSTS

Michigan State Grange urges legislation to develop a Bill or Public Act that would force employers and health insurance companies to coincide the date of open enrollment with the next year's insurance rates, therefore, giving employees the option of coverage that would best fit their financial situation. — 2016

DRUGS

1. BANNING USE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS PARAPHERNALIA

Michigan State Grange recommends that legislation be passed that would prohibit specialty businesses from selling equipment exclusively for the purpose of smoking marijuana and the use of cocaine or any other illegal drug.

2. BREAST & OVARIAN CANCER

Michigan State Grange supports further research of drugs and other treatment of breast and ovarian cancer to extend the life expectancy of women.

3. DRUG AND PILLS DISPOSAL—2012

Michigan State Grange support having well-advertised places in our communities/counties where residents can safely dispose of outdated or unused medicines more than the twice-a-year National Prescription Drug take Back Days sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Agency and local law enforcement.

4. OPIOID CRISIS

Michigan State Grange urges the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service continue to monitor the amount of Opioid drugs that are being prescribed.

SOCIAL

1. RESPECT FOR THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

Michigan State Grange, having utmost respect for the sanctity of human life declares its belief in the value and worth of all members of the human family from the beginning of life until natural death. This avowed reverence for human life is rooted in scientific fact confirming the existence of a uniquely human individual created from the beginning and extending especially to those individuals most vulnerable, defenseless, and in need of our humane protection and care.

2. CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATION

Michigan State Grange supports increased awareness of the problem of child abuse and the need for more expedient reporting and investigation.

3. SOCIAL LEGISLATION FOR LOW INCOME, ILL, DISABLED

Michigan State Grange opposes steady erosion of the benefits of the proven low income, ill, and disabled.

PORNOGRAPHY

1. CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Michigan State Grange strongly urges law enforcers to increase their efforts to abolish child pornography.

2. MOVIE RENTAL FOR HOME USE

Michigan State Grange supports passage of additional state legislation to oppose the renting of NC-17 rated movies to children under the age of 18, and the enforcing of these laws. .

MISCELLANEOUS

1. HUMAN STEM CELL RESEARCH

Michigan State Grange strongly support continued stem cell research that may involve naturally aborted fetuses or unused harvested embryos.

2. FOOD AND PHARMACEUTICAL IMPORTS

Michigan State Grange supports increased inspections consistent with the international law, by the U.S. FDA of food and drug production facilities located outside the United States that source goods to the U.S. and which are not otherwise under the direct jurisdiction of the European Medicines Agency (Europe), the Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Agency (Japan), the therapeutic Goods Agency (Australia), or Health Canada.

3. SAFER ACT 2010—2011

Michigan State Grange urges National Grange to support the passage of the Sexual Assault Forensics Evidence Registry Act of 2010 in order to assist in the linkage, identification and prosecution of perpetrators of rape.

4. CERTIFICATION OF STERILE PROCESSING TECHNICIANS—2013

Michigan State Grange recommends that the state of Michigan enact legislation requiring certification of all Sterile Processing Technicians, and that continuing education be required of all certified Sterile Processing Technicians.

5. LICENSING RULES FOR CHILD CARE CENTERS—2018

Michigan State Grange supports changing provisions so that the caregiver to child ratio for children in diapers is a 1-4 ratio.

LEGISLATIVE POLICY

ALCOHOL & TOBACCO

1. LIQUOR ADVERTISING AIMED AT YOUTH

Michigan State Grange recommends that the Federal Trade Commission:

1. Ban all liquor ads aimed at youth..
2. End marketing appeals aimed at heavy drinkers.
3. Authorize public service spots on television to counter the liquor ads with

information

about the harmful effects of drinking.

Michigan State Grange supports all efforts to curb drunk driving in America.

2. RETURN OF SUSPENDED OPERATOR'S LICENSE

Michigan State Grange favors legislation that allows for courts to return an operator's license that has been suspended or revoked by the Secretary of State for the reason of drunk driving when the defender has followed restrictions and regulations set forth in the law for drunk driving offenses..

3. PROHIBITION OF THOSE INJURED WHEN UNDER INFLUENCE OF LIQUOR OR DRUGS TO SUE OTHERS FOR DAMAGES

Michigan State Grange recommend that the Michigan State and U.S. Legislatures enact legislation that would prohibit those who receive injuries when they are impaired through their voluntary ingestion of alcohol or drugs from suing others for money damages.

4. PROSECUTING ALL DRUNK DRIVERS

Michigan State Grange urges that legislation be passed stating that all drivers of motorized transportation driving under the influence of alcohol be given similar, appropriate penalties to those given in operation of an automobile.

BOTTLE DEPOSIT LAW

1. AMENDMENT TO BOTTLE DEPOSIT LAW

Michigan State Grange urges the Michigan State Legislature to amend the "Bottle Law" to include bottled water, fruit juices, teas and sport drinks, as well as soft drinks and all alcoholic beverages.

COURTS, CRIME, GUN CONTROL

1. RESIGNATION OF TERM OF OFFICE

Michigan State Grange recommends that legislation be enacted that would require any public official convicted of a felony to resign from their office.

2. PAROLES

Michigan State Grange recommends that the Department of Corrections adopt stricter criteria for paroling prisoners, especially those convicted of violent crimes.

3. PRISON CRIMES

Michigan State Grange favors more stringent enforcement of current policies to correct problems of inmate crime in our state prison system.

4. PLEA OF INSANITY

Michigan State Grange supports legislation which would require persons pleading insanity, then being declared sane and released from the hospital and asylum, to be sentenced to the maximum terms permitted under the law.

5. CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Michigan State Grange supports capital punishment legislation in the case of espionage, treason, hi-jacking, pre-meditated murder, rape resulting in death, all these proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

6. FOOD, NOT ARMS

Michigan State Grange supports the theory that food, not arms, be used more to enlist the support of America's allies which, if also adopted by government leaders on the use of food, should have the effect to solidify international alliances.

7. PUNISHMENT OF VIOLENT FELONS

Michigan State Grange supports life imprisonment for two time violent offenders where the threatened use, use, or the risk of use of physical force against the person of another is used; for which the maximum authorized imprisonment exceeds 15 years, and which is designated as a violent felony.

8. PUNITIVE DAMAGE CLAIMS

Michigan State Grange favors legislation which would curb runaway punitive damage claims.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. DOMESTIC CONTENT

Michigan State Grange urges the United States government to adopt a domestic content policy against any country which levies a domestic content policy against the United States.

2. IMPORTED FOODS

Michigan State Grange urges that laws and rules be enacted that would require that all food grown in foreign countries for export to the United States be grown and processed under the same restrictions placed upon American agriculture and industry, and further recommends an import restriction be placed on the importation of food from countries who are unwilling to follow the production guidelines required of the American farmer and industry.

3. FAIR TRADE POLICIES

Michigan State Grange supports changing Free Trade policies, which allow all quantities of products to move freely between nations, to Fair Trade policies, where trade is reciprocal between nations, so that all nations involved are treated equitably.

GOVERNMENT

1. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES, STATE/NATIONAL TERMS

Michigan State Grange recommends to the Michigan Legislature and the U.S. Congress that laws be enacted that when a Representative or Senator fails to answer roll call to carry out his or her duties for a continuous 90 days, a qualified resident of the same party and district or state be appointed by the Governor to represent the constituency of said district or state until the elected official can resume his or her duties, or until the next regular election.

2. CONGRESSIONAL EXEMPTIONS

Michigan State Grange opposes legislation which would exempt members of Congress from any U.S laws or acts. We believe that Congressional members should be treated the same as all other citizens in regard to the enactment and enforcement of all laws and ordinances.

3. PRESIDENTIAL LINE ITEM VETO

Michigan State Grange recommends legislation to give the President of the United States the power to line veto items that he considers unnecessary.

4. UNITED STATES FLAG

Michigan State Grange supports legislation that would forbid the desecration of the U.S. Flag, and support the enactment of similar legislation in the State of Michigan.

5. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT

Michigan State Grange urges its members to participate in the governmental process whenever possible, to insure that laws and regulations adopted are truly in the best interests of all citizens.

6. CAMPAIGN FINANCING

Michigan State Grange favors more strict enforcement of the rules for campaign contributors, and the lowering of amounts which may be contributed by individuals, corporations, or PACs.

7. PRIMARY ELECTION

Michigan State Grange recommends to the Michigan Legislature and the Governor of Michigan that the voters of Michigan continue to vote a straight party ticket in primary elections.

8. PART-TIME LEGISLATURE IN MICHIGAN

Michigan State Grange supports the concept of a part time legislature for Michigan.

9. MIS-USE OF TAXPAYERS' FUNDS FOR TRAVEL BY CONGRESS

Michigan State Grange urges United States Congressional committees to make travel plans open to the public, and urges all Congressmen to control travel expenses.

10. DRAIN CODE

Michigan State Grange favors legislation that would require at least fifty-one per cent of the property owners in the watershed on the drain sign a petition before a drain could be cleaned, and that property owners outside of the watershed on the drain be ineligible to sign said cleaning petition.

11. SPEED LIMIT CONTROL

Michigan State Grange urges the Michigan Legislature to enact legislation to allow County Officials to legislate ordinances with legal status to limit the speed on local or primary roads within their respective county to a speed less than fifty-five miles per hour.

12. ABOLISH CAPITAL GAINS TAX

Michigan State Grange favors Legislation that would abolish capital gains tax on farms and livestock used in farming.

13. ROAD FUNDING FOR MICHIGAN ROADS AND HIGHWAYS

Michigan State Grange resolve and urge the Michigan legislature not to change the formula in Public Act 51 and continue it in its present form.

14. THE PROTECTION OF CEMETERY SITE, MEMORIALS, AND MARKERS

Michigan State Grange recommends to the Michigan State Legislature that laws be enacted that would allow the Michigan State Court System to give up to a \$1,000 monetary award upon the conviction of individuals who vandalizes cemeteries, tombstones, historical markers to the informant, and further that the person convicted of the crime be required to pay all court costs, including the award, and the cost of repairs to the damaged property.

15. MAJORITY VOTE ONLY FOR APPROVAL OF LEGISLATION BY THE MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE

Michigan State Grange recommend to the citizens of the State of Michigan that they continue to support the Michigan State Constitution that requires a simple majority vote of our legislators for enactment of legislation , and further the Michigan State Grange opposes any legislation or constitutional amendments that would require more than a simple majority vote of our legislators for enactment.

16. LEGISLATIVE WAGE INCREASES

Michigan State Grange favors an amendment to the Michigan Constitution requiring that the legislature vote on any salary increases proposed by the compensation commission.

17. VOTING RIGHTS

Michigan State Grange recommends legislation to be enacted that would permanently prohibit restriction, such as a poll tax or literacy requirement, on the voting rights of the citizens of the United States.

18. REGULATING PHARMACEUTICALS

Michigan State Grange supports programs to help insure consumers, thereby allowing accessibility to prescription drug products, and opposes limitations to free market approach to pharmaceutical pricing, such as governmental price control, further the Michigan State Grange supports the education of its membership on the options available for prescription drug cost assistance.

19. MINIMUM WAGE RATE

Michigan State Grange supports a raise in the Federal minimum wage rate yearly to coincide with the rate of inflation.

20. IMMIGRATION

Michigan State Grange favors reasonable accommodations by ICE, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, to improve border security and minimize the adverse effects current immigration regulations have on agricultural businesses.

21. OPPOSING TRANSFER OF TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT

Michigan State Grange opposes the transfer of township services to county governments and urges the retention of township government in Michigan.

22. TERM LIMITS

Michigan State Grange supports changing term limits to six two year terms for State Representatives, and 4 four year terms for State Senators from the current term limits.

23. U.S. HOUSE AND SENATE RECESSES —2014

Michigan State Grange recommends that the U.S. Congress eliminates the August Congressional recess.

24. DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA) ISSUES — 2017

Michigan State Grange supports legislative action to make the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program permanent.

25. ABSENTEE VOTER BALLOTS—2018

Michigan State Grange supports Legislation that ensures that absentee ballots are forwarded per any mail forwarding requests and that ballots be treated as postage free.

26. UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE –2023

Michigan State Grange urges and requests a congressional inquiry into the total United States Postal Service (USPS) to ascertain why costs continue to rise while service to our citizens has suffered creating hardships for many.

HUMAN WELFARE

1. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Michigan State Grange favors a law requiring that the biological father's name, if known, be included on the child's birth certificate for purposes of the father's identification, the child's right to Social Security, and other support which should be provided by the father. Further, that if the alleged father isn't identified within 90 days from the date of birth he forfeits all rights to a child he may have fathered.

2. ADOPTION REFORM

Michigan State Grange favors adoption reforms which would consider the best interests of the child in all proceedings, investigations and rulings. Further, that all phases of an adoption should be handled by the most qualified agencies.

3. SETTLEMENT OF FAMILY ESTATES

Michigan State Grange urges the Judicial Branch of the State of Michigan to make settlement of family estates easier and more economical.

4. CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTERS

Michigan State Grange supports crisis pregnancy centers as private and independent institutions.

5. ABORTION

Michigan State Grange opposes the use of State and Federal funds for abortions.

6. HOMELESS CHILDREN

Michigan State Grange recommends that rules and regulations be enacted whereby young people, classified poor and homeless, receive immediate care and attention by the Department of Social Services as soon as they are referred to the agencies. Further, that these homeless children be placed in child care centers or homes where they will receive guidance and care that would help them to become productive citizens.

7. INSPECTION OF DAY CARE AND FOSTER CARE FACILITIES

Michigan State Grange encourages the State of Michigan to increase the budget for the inspection of Day Care and Foster Care Facilities with the goal that inspections can be scheduled and completed within two weeks of application, and that there be two or more routine, unannounced, follow-up inspections every year.

8. DOGS IN PUBLIC PLACES

Michigan State Grange opposes the presence of dogs, except seeing eye dogs and/or dogs for the deaf, in the areas of public beaches, state and county parks except where permitted by regulation for the safety of the people who patronize these public areas.

9. SUPPLEMENTING THE FARM LABOR FORCE IN MICHIGAN

Michigan State Grange recommends to the Michigan Legislature that they institute a supervised Correctional facility inmates work detail to help harvest the crops on Michigan farms that requests their assistance.

10. PRAYER IN OUR SCHOOLS

Michigan State Grange encourages the National Grange to urge the US Congress to enact Legislation that would rescind the ban on prayer in our school, both public and chartered, and further that the schools of our nations be permitted to reinstate voluntary participation in prayer, and further the Michigan State Grange recommend the National Grange to urge every public and charter school to post the TEN COMMANDMENTS in a prominent place on their school premises.

11. “ONE NATION, UNDER GOD”

Michigan State Grange supports current National Grange policy against deletion of “one nation, under God” from our Pledge of Allegiance.

12. POSTING OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Michigan State Grange recommends to the U.S. Legislature, and the Michigan State Legislature that they enact laws that would approve the display of the Ten Commandments, along with other historical documents, in their governmental structures and on property owned.

13. AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Michigan State Grange opposes any affirmative action programs that give preferential treatment to groups or individuals based on their race, gender, color, ethnicity, or national origin for public employment, education, or contracting purposes.

14. HATE CRIME LAWS — 2014

Michigan State Grange supports and promotes State of Michigan legislation that provides additional wording to the Michigan hate crime legislation for the protection of those who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or gender non-conforming.

15. CONDEMNATION OF THREATS ABOUT VIOLENCE – 2021

Michigan State Grange condemns “joking” about violence aimed at our elected officials.

INSURANCE

1. FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Michigan State Grange urges the Michigan legislature to pass legislation which would prevent financial institutions from becoming licensed as insurance agencies.

2. INSURANCE COMMISSION NOTIFICATION

Michigan State Grange favors legislation that will require the State Insurance Commission to follow up on owners of canceled vehicle insurance and require them to take out insurance or have their car license revoked.

3. STATE POINT SYSTEM

Michigan State Grange favors legislation that would require that the method of assessing points, as pertains to automobile insurance, be uniform among all insurance companies and that the number of points assessed be the same as are on the driver's license, and that after three years of no accidents or tickets that a person's driving record be considered clean and auto insurance rates be standard for a person's age and classification, and when a insurance company assesses points against a policy holder that these points be printed on the declaration page at renewal date.

4. HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE

Michigan State Grange encourages legislation that would prevent insurance companies from using credit scores as a basis to set homeowners insurance premiums.

5. INSURANCE POLICIES — 2014

Michigan State Grange supports legislation that would require insurance companies to offer an accelerated cost on their existing policy as opposed to canceling for repeat claims.

PETITIONS

1. INITIATIVE PETITIONS

Michigan State Grange recommends to the Michigan Legislature that legislation be enacted that would require that the language of initiative petitions be approved by proper authority prior to the distribution and signing of the petitions, and that this legislation require the language of all initiative petitions on a county or township level be approved by proper authority prior to the distribution and signing of the petitions.

PRESIDENTIAL EXPENSES

1. FORMER PRESIDENT EXPENSES

Michigan State Grange recommends to the United States Congress that the furnishing of protection and the granting of special privileges to past Presidents be discontinued four years after the expiration of their term of office, and the United States government furnish security for all past Presidents when they are attending an official function for the government of the United States.

2. PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES

Michigan State Grange urges that Presidential Libraries be maintained by private donations rather than federal public monies.

SOCIAL SECURITY

1. SOCIAL SECURITY CHECKS - UNCASHED

Michigan State Grange favors enactment of a law that returned, and/or, un-cashed Social Security checks go back to the Social Security Trust Fund.

2. SOCIAL SECURITY FUNDS

Michigan State Grange favors a return to the original concept of the Social Security Program, and requests that other worthwhile programs be funded from other sources, so that the benefits of the many items of special legislation be preserved, and that a strict accounting be applied to assist in the elimination of fraud, and strict penalties be assessed those who attempt to defraud the Social Security System.

3. SOCIAL SECURITY RESIDENCY

Michigan State Grange urges the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that would require all Social Security recipients to be citizens of the United States, and must reside in the United States at least ten months of each year, or forfeit one half of their Social Security benefits.

4. SOCIAL SECURITY COST OF LIVING INCREASES

Michigan State Grange opposes any freeze in cost of living adjustment in Social Security unless wages and prices are frozen at the same level so that all may share equally in reducing the deficit and that all payments be made on a timely basis.

5. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS

Michigan State Grange recommends to the Michigan Legislature that legislation be enacted that would prohibit the placement of social security numbers on driver's licenses.

6. SOCIAL SECURITY

Michigan State Grange encourages the United States Congress to take positive, conscientious action to reform and insure the future solvency of the United States Social Security system thereby insuring that there will be sufficient funds to meet the future retirement needs of the United States citizens. Further, the Michigan State Grange recommends to the U.S. Congress that legislation be enacted that would exclude the placement of the Social Security fund balance as an item in the annual budget of the United States.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. DISTRIBUTING CANDY, ETC. AT PARADES

Michigan State Grange supports legislation that would require individuals or organizations who are distributing candy or other goods at parades, or other similar activities, be required to hand out their goods rather than throwing them into the crowd and/or onto the roadway.

2. ENGLISH LANGUAGE AS A REQUIREMENT IN THE WORKPLACE

Michigan State Grange supports the requirement that employees in the workplace understand the English language.

3. TRESPASS LAWS

Michigan State Grange urges more effective enforcement and stronger penalties for violators of the present recreational trespass and private land laws.

4. NUMERICAL IDENTIFICATION OF DWELLINGS

Michigan State Grange supports legislation requiring that numerals large enough to be visible from the street, be displayed on every dwelling in village or town and on every mail box in rural Michigan areas.

5. FUEL TANK PROTECTION

Michigan State Grange favors legislation to require adequate protection of exposed fuel tanks on extremely high raised or bumper less vehicles.

6. ARCHITECT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Michigan State Grange favors legislation that would require an architect to be financially responsible - either directly or through insurance - for any defects in design for a pre-determined period of time.

7. ELECTRIC POWER RATES

Michigan State Grange favors legislation that would require electric companies to place all non-profit organizations on a residential rating.

8. SELLING OIL LEASE

Michigan State Grange opposes the noncompetitive selling of oil and mineral leases on all federal lands.

9. SELLING TOBACCO TO MINORS

Michigan State Grange strongly urges enforcement of the laws of Michigan that prohibit the sale of tobacco in any form to minors.

10. CRUMB RUBBER

Michigan State Grange favors continued financial assistance to Michigan State University to assist the research program for additional uses for crumbed tires.

11. MANUFACTURER'S LIABILITY

Michigan State Grange favors legislation that would exempt manufacturers of machinery and producers of other goods from lawsuits, fines and other monetary expenses if they meet State and Federal regulations that were in effect at the time their products were built or produced.

12. RELEASE OF STATE AND NATIONAL LAND

Michigan State Grange urges the State of Michigan and the National Government to release some state-and federally-owned lands for sale to the general public, further, should the State and National governments retain possession of this land, then they be required to pay a property tax which is consistent with other private property of the area, further a moratorium be placed on the future purchase of State or Federal lands, except those to be used for City, County or Township recreation grants or for the development of public infrastructure.

13. WATER HAZARD...IT'S TIME LAWMAKERS PUT THE BRAKE ON PERSONAL WATER CRAFT

Michigan State Grange urges the Michigan State Legislature to develop a required training program for all who wish to operate personal water crafts before they will receive a license to operate one, and all personal water craft operators be required to observe the "slow no wake law" when operating one closer than 100 feet from the shore.

14. TOXIC NATURAL GAS (SOUR GAS)

Michigan State Grange supports vigorous inspection of pipe lines and wells for toxic gases, such as those containing hydrogen sulfide, to ensure that they comply with current safety regulations and to protect the public from their toxic effects.

15. RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS FIRST: TO PROTECT UNIVERSAL SERVICE IN THE ELECTRIC UTILITY INDUSTRY FOR RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

Michigan State Grange supports the policy of the National Grange to protect the Universal Services in the Electric Utility Industry for residential customer's

16. UNWANTED CREDIT CARDS

Michigan State Grange urges the National Grange to work with Congress to develop legislation which would make it illegal for credit card companies to send unsolicited credit cards to the United States Public.

17. LIONS AND TIGERS AS PETS

Michigan State Grange supports legislation which would make it illegal for individuals to own big cats, such as lions and tigers.

18. FUNDING FOR FAIRS

Michigan State Grange supports legislation that would maintain or increase the amount of funds available for distributions to the fairs of Michigan.

19. OUT OF STATE RUBBISH

Michigan State Grange urges legislation to prohibit rubbish being hauled into Michigan from outside the state and country, and deposited in Michigan landfills.

20. TOXIC OR HAZARDOUS WASTE

that Michigan State Grange recommends that all counties in Michigan should make provisions to dispose of toxic or hazardous waste materials.

21. ENFORCING SPEED RESTRICTIONS

Michigan State Grange urge the legislature to designate stronger measures for the state police to enforce said speed laws on Michigan highways and sufficient budget be provided to carry out the enforcement.

22. INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT OF 1978

Michigan State Grange recommends to the U. S. Legislature that laws be enacted that would rescind the Inspector General Act of 1978.

23. CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

Michigan State Grange urges legislation to retain the Conservation Reserve Program.

24. RETIREMENT

Michigan State Grange favors the adoption of legislation, which protects a person from being forced to work a minimum pay job in order to receive workman's compensation.

25. RIGHT TO FARM

Michigan State Grange supports the State of Michigan Right to Farm Act.

26. NUCLEAR PLANTS

Michigan State Grange reaffirms the recognition that nuclear energy as a source of electricity is necessary in our efforts to compete in world markets..

27. PREEMPTIVE ZONING

Michigan State Grange proposes clarification and strengthening of the Right to Farm Act to protect farmers from zoning changes, such as “strip” zoning.

28. IMPORTATION OF TRASH FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES INTO THE UNITED STATES

Michigan State Grange recommends that the National Grange encourage the United States Legislature enact laws that would prohibit the dumping of waste from foreign countries in the landfills located in the United States and further that laws be enacted that would permanently prohibit the shipment of raw sewage from foreign countries to any landfill in the United States.

29. NEW POLICY

Michigan State Grange recommend to their members that they assume the responsibility of keeping their elected officials informed of Grange Policy when it concerns them and further that the Michigan State Grange continue to send their Legislative Policy to all State of Michigan Representatives, Senators, Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Department heads, and further that all forms of communication be used by the Grange members to relate the policies of the Grange.

30. ENGINES POWERED

Michigan State Grange recommend to the United States Manufacturers that they make available engines that will be able to use Ethanol Fuels for the propulsion of vehicles used in the United States, and further that they use their engineering facilities to develop engines that will be able to use multiple fuels, such as gas, propane, diesel, and ethanol, for propulsion.

31. OUTSOURCING

Michigan State Grange favors immediate legislation to reduce outsourcing of State functions to those outside of the State of Michigan.

32. ETHANOL BLEND IN GASOLINE

Michigan State Grange supports legislation that would require oil producers to change their gasoline mixture to contain 40% ethanol.

33. STATE OF MICHIGAN LAND SALES

Michigan State Grange recommends to the legislature of the State of Michigan that legislation be enacted that would prevent the disposal or trade of any real estate parcels of 40 acres or more that have public access via public roadways or a public right-of-way except where there is an exchange of property that would improve access for the State of Michigan and also legislation be enacted that would retain the ownership of all currently owned property of the State of Michigan that contains a creek, stream, river or lake frontage.

34. EMINENT DOMAIN

Michigan State Grange recommends to the Michigan Legislature and the U.S. Congress that laws be enacted that would ensure that property could not be acquired under eminent domain if it were to be transferred to a private entity.

35. INVASIVE SPECIES IN GREAT LAKES WATERWAYS

Michigan State Grange supports legislation that would control and limit the discharge of ballast water, by transoceanic vessels traveling through and porting in the Great Lakes.

36. AMERICAN MADE—2010

Michigan State Grange supports legislation that would require products bearing an “American Made” claim, or equivalent language, to have manufacturing costs constituting at least 75% of the total manufacturing costs for the product, and to be last substantially transformed in the United States.

37. BROADBAND WORKS FOR RURAL AMERICA—2011

Michigan State Grange supports legislation that encourages the deployment of high speed broadband Internet access and next-generation technologies to all of rural America, and further Michigan State Grange supports the modernization of the Universal Service Fund (USF) to ensure last mile (wire line or wireless) connectivity for rural Americans to broadband, thereby creating job, enhancing the economy, and boosting local businesses.

38. SCRAPPERS—2013

Michigan State Grange urges legislation to allow the recovery of stolen property from pawn shops and salvage yards at no cost to the victim and further resolved that pawn shops and salvage yards be required to obtain a picture of the sellers at the same time as they obtain identification so law enforcement agents can follow up on the seller of stolen property and further that salvage yards be required to view the scrap metal being brought in for items that may not be considered actual scrap.

39. RECORDED 911 CALLS—2013

Michigan State Grange urges legislation that would prohibit the public release of all 911 calls, except when required by a court order.

40. MEDICARE AND PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Michigan State Grange supports legislation that would allow the Department of Health and Human Services, on behalf of the Medicare Part D Plans, to negotiate prescription drug prices with pharmaceutical companies and suppliers. — 2016

41. IN TOWN AND OUT OF TOWN MAIL BOXES—2018

Michigan State Grange supports the presence of two outgoing mail boxes at each local post office, with one box for out of town mail and another for local mail, thereby eliminating unnecessary transport and handling of local mail.

42. UNSOLICITED PHONE CALLS --2018

Michigan State Grange urges the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to work to put an end to all unsolicited telephone calls.

43. U.S. HOUSE BILL 610 —2018

Michigan State Grange opposes the legislation that establishes a voucher system and guidelines that states must follow to receive federal funding for K-12 schools, and outlines a system where parents are funding recipients whom may choose to use funding to enroll their child aged 5-17 in public, private or home school situations.

44. FOOD PACKAGING – 2021

Michigan State Grange supports legislation preventing staples from being used in packaging any type of food.

45. FAIRS IN MICHIGAN – 2021

Michigan State Grange supports legislation providing financial assistance to our struggling county fairs.

46. THE US DOLLAR IS THE MAIN CURRENCY --2023

Michigan State Grange urges legislation that prohibits businesses from being card only payments and that CASH be accepted at all institutions as a form of payment.

47. HANDS FREE CELL PHONES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS--2023

Michigan State Grange recommends that the law be enforced for “all drivers”, private citizens and law enforcement officers as well.

NATURAL RESOURCES & CONSERVATION POLICY

ENERGY

1. PREFERENCE CLAUSE

Michigan State Grange favors renewal of existing licenses for public and also private hydro-electric utility companies who are presently operating in a satisfactory manner.

2. NUCLEAR ENERGY

Michigan State Grange recognizes the necessity of nuclear energy as a source of energy in our effort to compete in world markets.

3. WIND TURBINE ZONING

Michigan State Grange favors zoning for wind turbines.

ENVIRONMENTAL

1. ENDANGERED SPECIES

Michigan State Grange recommends rules and regulations, pertaining to the Endangered Species Act, be modified so the economic impact to each individual owner of property be taken into consideration prior to the placement of the property in the endangered species area; and when a species recovers so that it no longer is an endangered species it be taken off the list of endangered plants or animals.

2. STATE OF MICHIGAN ENVIRONMENTAL BUDGET

Michigan State Grange recommends to the Legislative and Executive Branches of the State of Michigan that they do not allow a reduction in funds budgeted for environmental cleanup in future budgets until such time as all cleanup has been accomplished, and further recommends that funds approved through the bond issue for environmental cleanup be expended in a orderly and economical fashion so that the maximum cleanup possible be accomplished with the funds received.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Michigan State Grange supports efforts to develop grain by-products like biodegradable plastic containers made of cornstarch and petroleum products, especially when they produce a product beneficial to our waste management efforts and are not harmful or are less harmful to the environment than former practices/products.

4. ALTERNATE SYSTEMS OF WASTE MANAGEMENT

Michigan State Grange supports development by the State of Michigan of alternative systems of waste management and assist local units in their establishment.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE CAUSED BY CHLORIDE

Michigan State Grange recommends the Michigan State and County Highway Commissions use salt in a more judicious manner on the roadways during the winter.

6. EXCESSIVE PACKAGING

Michigan State Grange supports the development of laws encouraging an economical and resource efficient approach to product packaging.

7. RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL OF TRASH

Michigan State Grange recommends that the following be adopted as policy for the reduction of trash

1. Require that companies utilize reusable and interchangeable containers
2. Containers that cannot be reused be recyclable
3. Containers that do not meet standards for reusing or recycling be compost able
4. Last source of disposal to be in landfills.
5. Ask farmers to spread leaves on crop lands as a mulch.

8. RECYCLING

Michigan State Grange favors the recycling of as much solid waste as practical thereby removing a source of pollution, and utilizing a valuable resource; that we encourage innovative methods be developed that would economically and efficiently retrieve from our landfills and sewage systems all recyclable products.

9. LOW LEVEL NUCLEAR WASTE DUMP

Michigan State Grange opposes the placement of any low level nuclear waste dump on productive farmland in Michigan , and recommends the state support federal legislation to reduce the number of proposed sites across the nation to dispose of low level nuclear waste.

10. TOXIC WASTE SAFETY

Michigan State Grange urges all laws pertaining to landfills be more carefully reviewed and enforced for the safety of Michigan residents to prevent toxic waste from contaminating our water supply, and the surrounding environment.

11. WASTE DISPOSAL

Michigan State Grange supports State's rights to govern the disposal of waste within their borders and refuse imported waste, and to oppose state privatization plans.

12. OUR ENVIRONMENT

Michigan State Grange support our leaders who use the rule of law to effectively safeguard and improve our environment through the endangered species act, the clean air act, and the national environmental policy act.

13. ENVIRONMENT

Michigan State Grange strongly supports the production and development of environmentally friendly products produced by agriculture and nature.

HUNTING AND FISHING

1. FINES FOR TRESPASSING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

Michigan State Grange recommends that the penalty be no less than \$200.00 for trespassing on private property during hunting season without written permission from the owner of said property.

2. CROP DAMAGE FROM DEER IN MICHIGAN

Michigan State Grange urges widespread publicity by DNR of the full particulars of deer permits available to farmers who suffer crop damage.

3. DEER HUNTING GUIDELINES

Michigan State Grange recommends to the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources to not put any restriction on the size of antlered deer hunted in the northern portion of the Lower Peninsula.

JAPANESE BEETLE & GYPSY MOTH

1. JAPANESE BEETLES

Michigan State Grange strongly recommends that State Legislators and Michigan Department of Natural Resources work together to develop a statewide program to control and/or eradicate the Japanese Beetle.

2. GYPSY MOTH

Michigan State Grange requests the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to escalate their program to control and/or eradicate the Gypsy Moth.

LAND AND WATER

1. DUMPING CONTAMINANTS IN THE GREAT LAKES

Michigan State Grange favors legislation that would stop dumping of contaminants in the waters of our Great Lakes.

2. PUBLIC LAKE AND RIVER ACCESSES

Michigan State Grange recommends that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources retain and maintain all public river and lake accesses owned by them within the State of Michigan; that local governments retain and maintain all public river and lake accesses owned by them within their own jurisdiction.

3. DIVERSION OF GREAT LAKES WATER – BOTTLED WATER

Michigan State Grange opposes the selling of water, our necessary natural resource, to any enterprise until such time that the limits of our aquifer are known and deemed adequate by an appropriate regulatory agency.

4. WATER USAGE

Michigan State Grange urges the legislature to meet the requirements of the Great lakes Charter by providing water usage information to the Department of Natural Resources from large users to wisely protect, manage and develop the water resources of the state of enacting the Great Lakes Diversion Prevention Act.

5. POLLUTION OF MICHIGAN WATERWAYS

Michigan State Grange opposes all efforts to increase the pollutants in Michigan streams, rivers,

and lakes by industry, even with the Michigan Water resources Commission approval, and asks that the Governor uphold the Water Quality Policy of the State of Michigan, and supports the efforts of the state and local units of government to reduce the number of communities mixing storm drains and sanitary sewer overflows.

6. ACID RAIN

Michigan State Grange urges the United States Government to continue an International Commission to investigate and control industrial emissions that contribute to acid rain.

7. CLEAN WATER (Revised 2018)

Michigan State Grange recommends State and Federal Legislators strive to reduce the allowable pollutants that may enter all bodies of water in the State of Michigan and the United States.

8. GREAT LAKES WATER DIVERSION

Michigan State Grange supports in principle the inventorying of Michigan's water resources but opposes any permits or fees resulting from agricultural water usage.

9. "POTABLE WATER"

Michigan State Grange, as good stewards of the water supply which is so crucial for survival, encourages each individual to share the responsibility for educating the general public as to the seriousness of any potential harmful contaminants from our potable water supply, and further the Grange, will do its utmost to promote safe, healthy, uncontaminated ground water for current and future generations.

10. DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CHEARCUTTING FOREST IN MICHIGAN —2017

Michigan State Grange encourages the Department of Natural Resources to better manage the cutting and replanting of our forest to provide the best establishment of the forest.

WETLANDS

1. WETLANDS LAW

Michigan State Grange recommends that steps be taken to have Congress go over the Wetlands and modify it so that the average farmer can live with it, that the law be less strict, and that the average farmer have more control over the treatment of his wetlands.

2. WETLANDS LEGISLATION

Michigan State Grange supports legislation by the United States Congress that clearly defines a wetland, provides for clear classification of wetlands, and provides compensation to landowners who are denied the use of their property and suffer property devaluation by newly declared wetlands. It would further provide for public comment and notification to affected property owners of the designated wetlands.

3. WETLANDS PERMITS

Michigan State Grange urges that a series of public hearings to gather information and briefs on the wetlands permit process be held throughout the Lower and Upper Peninsulas of Michigan, and the findings of these hearings be included in the report to (MNRC) Michigan Natural Resources Commission.

4. MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE POLICY ON WETLANDS

Michigan State Grange strongly supports and urges enactment of the following Policy on Wetlands:

The Michigan State Grange supports allowing each individually defined wetland of less than one and one-half acres to be drained without penalty.

The Michigan State Grange supports the following guidelines for determining wetland areas and the use thereof:

a. Wetland designation can only apply to those areas that can be shown to be functioning as wetlands and that have environmental value.

b. Wetland designation can only apply to those areas that can be scientifically shown as readily identifiable by their natural characteristics and should be classified and regulated to significantly show environmental value.

c. Wetland designation shall not apply to areas that are artificially created by irrigation, stock water ponds, or have been cropped for 1 of the last 5 years.

d. That the sole authority for determining and administering all wetland areas on agricultural lands be controlled by the USDA's Soil Conservation Service.

Further, if wetlands are designated by USDA, the farmer shall have the opportunity to sign it up in the Wetland Reserve Program.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. DNR POWERS

Michigan State Grange recommends to the Michigan Legislature that legislation be enacted that would establish a three member Board of Appeals to review decisions of the Department of Natural Resources that might be detrimental to the health or economic welfare of a property owner or community; that this legislation would require that the Governor of the State of Michigan appoint the members of the Department of natural Resources Appeals board; that this legislation state that the appointments to the DNR Board of Appeals be individuals who are not employed by, or connected to, the Department of Natural Resources.

2. DEER DAMAGE

Michigan State Grange strongly urges farmers to use the protective legislation of block permits to reduce deer herd population on their farm and cooperate with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and report the deer harvested. Further, the Michigan State Grange urges farmers to report to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources crop damage on their farm caused by deer.

3. FEEDING & BAITING DEER

Michigan State Grange encourages the Department of Natural Resources to reconsider and stop the feeding and baiting of deer.

4. HANDLING OF DEAD ANIMALS ALONG MICHIGAN HIGHWAYS.

Michigan State Grange supports legislation that:

1. Will recognize this very serious and unhealthy problem which occurs in every county in the state of Michigan.
2. Will appoint an agency or fund to remove the highway killed animals whenever reported by the public
3. Will fund the agency or department assigned to this project from the general fund

5. CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD)

Michigan State Grange recommends to the Michigan Legislature that they enact legislation that would require all captive cervid animals being transferred interstate or intrastate must be tested for CWD and other known diseases and quarantined as needed and that inspection fees be implemented and that the current licensing fees in the State of Michigan be increased to meet the cost of the stepped up inspection of facilities and enforcement of the regulations regarding Cervid (deer and elk ranches) operations.

6. ASIAN CARP—2010

Michigan State Grange supports efforts that the State of Michigan is taking to keep the Asian Carp out of our beautiful Great Lakes

7. OIL SPILLS—2010

Michigan State Grange calls for stricter laws and enforcement of current laws on the American Oil industry by Government Agencies, both State and Federal, and further that any company found to be at fault in any petroleum spills assumes 100% of the costs involved in cleanup operations.

8. FERAL HOGS IN MICHIGAN –2021

Michigan State Grange strongly urges the Michigan Department of Agriculture, the Department of Natural Resources and the Federal Government to work with due diligence in eradicating or at least limiting the spread of Feral Hogs.

9. FARMLAND AND FORESTS--2023

Michigan State Grange strongly suggests to the Michigan State Legislature to stop all foreign land acquisitions that are destroying farmland and forests.

TAXATION & TRANSPORTATION POLICY

INCOME TAX

1. HEALTH INSURANCE DEDUCTION ON INCOME TAX

Michigan State Grange favors legislation allowing for 100 % deduction of Health Insurance coverage on city, state, and federal income tax returns, for self employed persons, including farmers and those not covered by employer financed health care coverage.

2. TAXATION OF PENSIONS

Michigan State Grange recommends to U.S. Representatives and Senators that legislation be enacted that would prohibit any state from imposing an income tax on the pension income of any individual who is not a resident of that state.

3. STATE INCOME TAX

Michigan State Grange opposes any legislation that would amend the Michigan Tax Laws to eliminate the personal exemptions and various deductions, including retirement benefits, contributed, energy credits, and the Homestead Tax Credit program known as Circuit Breaker.

5. INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR HISTORIC RESTORATION

Michigan State Grange favors a state income tax credit for qualifying individuals on a amortizing basis who repair or restore a country school, a farmstead, a Grange Hall, or other historic building.

PROPERTY TAX

1. FEE CHARGED TO TRAILERS LOCATED IN MOBILE HOME PARKS

Michigan State Grange recommends to the Michigan Legislature that legislation be enacted that would increase the monthly tax to mobile homes and trailers in trailer parks to \$12.00 per month.

2. GENERAL PROPERTY TAX

Michigan State Grange is opposed to any legislation that would amend the General Property Tax Act to eliminate personal property exemptions. This includes machinery, livestock, feed and farm products, and household goods.

3. PROPERTY TAX

Michigan State Grange supports keeping property tax assessments administration at the local level.

4. SINGLE BUSINESS CREDIT FOR HISTORIC RESTORATION

Michigan State Grange favors a single business credit for qualifying individuals or businesses who repair and restore a historic structure.

5. MINERAL RIGHTS

Michigan State Grange encourages that at all future mineral rights transactions have a seven year limit before reverting back to the current landowner.

6. FARM PROPERTY TAXES

Michigan State Grange favors legislation that would require Michigan farm land to be assessed according to its value as crop production potential and further that all farmland is active agriculture production be zoned A-1 (agriculture–single family).

7. FARM TAX

Michigan State Grange supports a tax break to any retired farm owner encouraging that farm owner to keep the land in production by leasing or renting his or her land for farming purposes.

8. INHERITANCE TAX

Michigan State Grange recommends to the U. S. Congress, and the Michigan State Legislature, that farm property estates, both real and personal, be exempt from inheritance tax.

9. RETENTION OF COLLECTION OF TAXES BY TOWNSHIP TREASURERS

Michigan State Grange recommends to the Michigan State Representatives and Senators that they oppose any legislation that would, if enacted, transfer the responsibility for the collection to taxes from the township treasurers to the county treasurers.

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ROAD TAX

1. FEDERAL TAXES ON MOTOR FUELS

Michigan State Grange recommends to their U.S. Legislators that any increase in federal tax on motor fuels be used on, or for, roads and bridges.

2. REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF LOCAL ROADS

Michigan State Grange recommends that monies collected from the Michigan weight and gasoline taxes be used only for the repair and maintenance of Michigan roads.

3. MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENT OF LOCAL ROADS

Michigan State Grange supports the efforts of the County Road Association of Michigan in their effort to secure an increase over the 39.1% share of the highway share of the gas and weight tax in Michigan, to enable our county road commissions to better maintain and improve our local roads which are vital to the economy and safety of the rural sector of Michigan.

4. TRUCK USER'S FEES FOR ROAD & BRIDGE REPAIR

Michigan State Grange urges the State Legislature to adopt a truck user's fee structure comparable to the adjoining Great Lake States which would bring in additional funds to repair our roads and bridges.

5. ELECTRIC CARS AND ROAD TAX

Michigan State Grange supports the use of separate electric meters for charging electric cars and that this electricity be taxed at a rate consistent with fuel taxes paid by similar vehicles.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION TAX

Michigan State Grange recommends that Workmen's Compensation benefit payments be an amount comparable with benefits paid by those states bordering Michigan.

2. GENERAL SALES TAX

Michigan State Grange opposes any legislation which would amend the general sales tax and use tax laws to eliminate exemptions for agricultural products.

3. VALUE ADDED TAX

Michigan State Grange opposes a Value Added Tax.

4. TAX ON INSURANCE COMPANIES

Michigan State Grange opposes any tax imposed on insurance companies based on their gross premium sales that could be passed on to the policy holders.

5. TEACHERS' RETIREMENT FUNDS

Michigan State Grange opposes legislation that would change the method and rate of payment to the Michigan Teachers' Retirement Fund or legislation that would allow the school districts to circumvent the intent of the Headlee Amendment.

6. OPPOSING CUTS IN MEDICAID

Michigan State Grange opposes any further cuts in the Medicaid Program.

7. BUDGET, DEBT, AND TAX REDUCTION

Michigan State Grange opposes any action to reduce taxes until the budget is balanced and the National Debt reduced to a manageable size.

8. TAX CARE CREDIT

Michigan State Grange supports legislation, both State and National, that would allow a tax credit to individuals who are caring for aged and handicapped relatives or friends in their home.

10. MARRIAGE PENALTY TAX

Michigan State Grange asks that the tax law be changed to allowed 50,000.00 for married couples or 25,000.00 each if they file separately for the exclusion of Social Security benefits.

12. SOCIAL SECURITY

Michigan State Grange favors that Social Security benefits be distributed without being taxed as personal income by the Federal Government.

13. BUY AMERICAN

Michigan State Grange urges all citizens to carefully evaluate all purchases and show preference for goods made in the United States of America.

14. HEARING IMPAIRED SAFETY

Michigan State Grange supports the institution of a voluntary program for hearing impaired drivers in the United States, so that such drivers can quickly and easily communicate their need for written communication with police officers and other public safety personnel and further recommends that 1) visor cards be made available as an option to alert officers, and 2) a license plate designation be made available for hearing impaired persons at their request, and 3) to protect the hearing impaired person their disability should be reflected on their driver's license. (passed 2011, revised 2016 & 2023)

15. LAND SALES OR TRANSFERS –2023

Michigan State Grange encourages the Michigan Legislature to pass laws preventing the sale of land (farmland, and U.S. property) to foreign entities.

16. REST AREA CAMPING – 2023

Michigan State Grange recommends all rest areas prohibit overnight camping longer than 24 hours with the exception of a mechanical issue that is actively being repaired.

MOTOR VEHICLES

1. WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS

Michigan State Grange recommends that legislation be enacted to lower the per axle weight limit on Michigan highways to match those of surrounding states, that the penalty be increased to make it unprofitable for the trucking companies or independent truckers to ignore the weight restrictions, and that the penalty be mandatory.

2. MOTOR VEHICLE BUMPERS

Michigan State Grange favors legislation that would make it unlawful to alter the manufactured height of a vehicle.

3. MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTION

Michigan State Grange favors vehicle inspections to insure vehicle road worthiness; further, that these inspections be used to ascertain that the driver is properly licensed and insured.

4. MOTORCYCLE HELMETS

Michigan State Grange supports a law requiring motorcycle riders to wear helmets. (Revised 2016)

5. MOPED AND HELMETS

Michigan State Grange requests that the helmet law be changed, that moped drivers of all ages be required to wear crash helmets, with the same rules as for drivers of motorcycles.

6. VEHICLE DECIBEL LEVELS

Michigan State Grange favors legislation requiring police departments to have sound measuring equipment as an aid in enforcing the law governing decibel levels for motorized vehicles, licensed and unlicensed.

7. DRIVING WITH PARKING LIGHTS

Michigan State Grange recommends that law enforcement officers be instructed to enforce the Michigan Vehicle Code #257-684, Section A in regards to driving with parking lights.

8. HANDICAP EMBLEMS

Michigan State Grange urges a universal handicap emblem be recognized and uniform penalties be enforced in Michigan when designated handicap facilities are unlawfully used.

9. HANDICAPPED PARKING PERMITS

Michigan State Grange recommends to the U.S. Congress that legislation be adopted that would require each state to recognize all handicapped parking permits that have been issued to a handicapped person by any state in the United States.

10. TRUCK SAFETY

Michigan State Grange favors legislation calling for restricting trucks to the right lane of freeways except when entering, passing, or encountering a hazard; and strongly urges annual safety inspections for all heavy trucks, and increased enforcement of existing traffic laws.

11. MORE COMFORTABLE CAR SAFETY BELTS

Michigan State Grange recommends that the National Safety Council urge car manufacturers to continue to improve the design and construction of safety restraints safe enough, and comfortable enough to encourage the rider and driver to use them.

12. REFLECTIVE MATERIALS ON LARGE TRUCKS

Michigan State Grange strongly supports the development of state and national laws that would require reflective tape and the installation of well engineered rear and side guards, on all existing and new trucks that are of such a height that under-ride by passengers vehicles is possible.

13. MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE FEE

Michigan State Grange urges the passage of legislation that would place Michigan's Motor Vehicle License Plate Fees on a sliding scale so the fee would decrease as the age of the vehicle becomes greater (older).

14. DRIVING WITH CAR LIGHTS ON AT ALL TIMES

Michigan State Grange urge legislation that would mandate use of headlights whenever the vehicle is being driven.

15. IMPROPER USE OF SLOW MOVING SIGNS

Michigan State Grange urges all farmers to properly use slow moving vehicle signs and other warning devices, such as flashing lights and individuals be alert for improper uses along the highway right of ways and report these improper uses to local law enforcement personnel.

16. SIDE MIRRORS

Michigan State Grange recommends that legislation be introduced requiring the car manufacturers to use regular mirrors on the passenger side of cars and place on curvature type mirrors to pick up blind spots.

17. EXCESSIVE NOISE

Michigan State Grange encourages the enforcement of county ordinances and state law that prohibits excessive noise emanating from automobile radios, sound systems and other appliances.

18. SOY DIESEL FOR SCHOOL BUSES

Michigan State Grange supports legislation that would encourage Michigan School Districts to utilize soy diesel in their school buses.

19. CELL PHONE AND TEXT MESSAGING

Michigan State Grange supports legislation banning the use of cell phones and text messaging devices by a vehicle's operator, at any time when the vehicle is in motion.

20. VEHICLE LIGHTS — 2014

Michigan State Grange supports legislation that would require all new models of vehicles produced to limit the activation of the rear white lights to only turn on when that vehicle is in reverse.

21. SEATBELTS ON ALL BUSES

Michigan State Grange recommends that Michigan Department of Education and Michigan Department of Transportation require the use of seatbelts on all school buses.

RAILROADS

1. **RAILROAD CROSSING OBSTRUCTIONS**

Michigan State Grange recommends that the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) require all railroad companies to cut the weeds and brush at railroad/highway intersections to give a clear view for oncoming traffic.

2. **HIGH SPEED RAILROADS - STATE OF MICHIGAN**

Michigan State Grange recommends that the Michigan Legislature and Executive Department oppose a high speed rail system between Detroit, Michigan and Chicago, Illinois.

3. **UNLIGHTED RAILROAD CROSSINGS**

Michigan State Grange favors legislation that would require reflectors on all railroad cars of trains traveling in the United States.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

1. **METRIC ROAD SIGNS**

Michigan State Grange recommend to the Federal Highway Administration there be no changeover in road signs to the metric system.

2. **FEDERAL HIGHWAY TRUST FUND**

Michigan State Grange favors legislation that would prohibit the use of the highway trust fund to help balance the budget or any other general revenue purpose, and opposes the use of any other specially designated fund collected by a special tax to be used for general revenue purposes.

3. **RECYCLING USED CONCRETE**

Michigan State Grange urges the State Highway Department to open up for bids to the County Road Commissions the purchase of used concrete from the destruction of roads and bridges.

4. **LOCAL BRIDGES**

Michigan State Grange recommends to Congress that legislation be enacted that would allow local units of government to receive grants from the federal government for local bridges that are built to the needs of the community as determined by the county or local road commissions.

5. **OVERHEAD DIRECTIONS AT TRAFFIC INTERSECTIONS**

Michigan State Grange favors legislation that overhead directions be erected over traffic intersections having two or more lanes each way.

6. **FOUR CORNER INTERSECTIONS**

Michigan State Grange favors legislation that would require that all four corner intersections have either a two-way or a four-way stop sign, thus eliminating all three-way stop signs, and be so marked as either two-way or four-way stop at these intersections.

7. ROADSIDE OBSTRUCTIONS

Michigan State Grange encourages both the Department of Transportation and local county road commissions to remove any obstructions natural and man-made in the road right-of-way at intersections, so as to give a clear view of approaching traffic.

8. PROTECTIVE SCREENING ON HIGHWAY OVERPASSES

Michigan State Grange favors legislation calling for protective screening to be placed on all major highway overpasses on Michigan freeways, and asks that this legislation include metropolitan areas.

9. SELECTION OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS

Michigan State Grange favors supporting the election of County Road Commissioners by a vote of the people at regular county elections.

10. COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONS

Michigan State Grange acknowledges that county road commissions provide a valuable service in an efficient and cost-effective manner, that county road commissions continue as three member boards, and that they have access to federal funds on the same basis as in the past, and that they continue to be responsible for all county and local roads.

11. ROAD CLEAN-UP

Michigan State Grange recommends removal of dangerous debris on roads should be done through some form of safety patrolling by county or city municipalities.

12. METRIC MEASUREMENTS FOR HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Michigan State Grange commends the Transportation Commission for their action in eliminating the metric measurement requirement for highway construction.

13. KEEPING ROADSIDES TRIMMED

Michigan State Grange recommends to those departments in charge of cutting these weeds and over growth at roadsides and at intersections that they keep them cut on a more frequent basis.

14. WHITE STRIPE ON PRIMARY & MAJOR HIGHWAYS IN MICHIGAN

Michigan State Grange encourages the Michigan Department of Transportation and the county road commissions establish a policy to keep the white stripes on the edge of their major and primary roads in good repair during all seasons.

15. PROHIBIT THE PLANTING OF CROPS CLOSE TO ROADS — 2014

Michigan State Grange support legislation that would prohibit the planting of crops on any road right of way to prevent blind corners and curves for drivers.

16. SIGNAL TRAFFIC LIGHTS VS. ROUNDABOUTS — 2014

Michigan State Grange recommends to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) look into using signal traffic lights over roundabouts for safety and cost purposes.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. FOOD SANITATION

Michigan State Grange favors legislation that would prohibit hauling garbage, refuse, and toxic materials in trucks that transport food.

2. HIGHWAY REST AREAS

Michigan State Grange recommends to the Michigan Department of Transportation that the rest areas on state roads be plowed in the winter whether or not the facilities are open, so that when needed, motorists will have a safe place to rest.

3. UNISEX HANDICAPPED RESTROOMS

Michigan State Grange recommends that the National Grange urge the Department of Transportation to become aware of the need of Unisex Handicapped Restrooms and make provisions for them at all new or remodeled rest stops.

4. DUMP STATIONS AT REST STOPS

Michigan State Grange urges the Michigan Department of Transportation to consider dump stations at rest stops when building new facilities or remodeling older units for dumping waste water by recreational vehicle users.

5. DRUNK DRIVERS

Michigan State Grange supports the Michigan Law that requires all drunk and impaired driving offenders to attend sessions on alcohol abuse, and be subject to mandatory steep fines, and suspension of driver's licenses.

6. LAWSUITS BY THOSE WHO ARE OVER 50% AT FAULT

Michigan State Grange recommends to the Michigan Legislature and the U. S. Congress that laws be enacted that would prohibit anyone, who is found to be over 50% at fault in any accident, to sue the other party involved in the accident.

7. MICHIGAN AUTO INSURANCE LAWS (#1)

Michigan State Grange recommends to the Michigan Legislature that legislation be adopted, as a single item, to reduce the amount of medical coverage required under the auto insurance laws from an unlimited amount to \$1,000,000 in coverage; further that if the insured desires additional medical coverage, such coverage could be purchased.

8. MICHIGAN AUTO INSURANCE LAWS (#2)

Michigan State Grange recommends to the Michigan Legislature that legislation be adopted, as a single item, to allow auto insurance companies to bargain with the medical field on the fees charged for their service.

9. EXIT NUMBERS ON MICHIGAN ROAD MAPS

Michigan State Grange urges the Michigan Department of Transportation to include all exit numbers on Interstate and Intrastate highways on any future state maps printed.

10. SIRENS ON THE AIR

Michigan State Grange urges legislation on outlawing the use of sirens as attention getters on the radio stations.

11. BICYCLE HELMETS

Michigan State Grange recommends that the State of Michigan enact legislation that would require bicycle helmets to be worn on public property, and further that said helmets be required to meet or exceed the standards of the American National Standards Institute or the Snell Memorial Foundation, or the American Society of Testing and Measurements for protective headgear for use in bicycling.

12. TIRE RELATED LEGISLATION

Michigan State Grange goes on record favoring the concept of the bill introduced by Rep. Fred Upton of St. Joseph, called Transportation Reporting Enhancement, Accountability and Documentation Act.

13. COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION & SOIL EROSION

Michigan State Grange recommends that county road commission work in conjunction with local conservation districts, Extension groups, and other environmental groups to increase their awareness of the damages caused by construction and maintenance practices in the areas of soil erosion.

14. STATE FURNISHED VEHICLES

Michigan State Grange recommends the State of Michigan consider the use of vehicles that run on alternative fuels i.e. fuel cells, hydrogen, ethanol when applicable.

15. ELECTRIC CARS AND THE POWER GRID

Michigan State Grange opposes any government requirements for electrical vehicle production unless it is matched by approval for construction of electrical generating facilities and upgrades to the power grid to cover increased usage, and further support charging electric vehicles only during off peak hours and further oppose government incentives for purchasing electric vehicles.

16. SPEED LIMITS

Michigan State Grange strongly suggests that the speed limit be lowered back to the previous 65-70 mph.

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