

**Date:** May 31, 2019  
**To:** State Board of Agriculture members  
**From:** Karla Valness, Special Assistant to the Director  
**Subject:** Resolutions

During the February 2019 State Board of Agriculture meeting, a working group was created to draft a new resolution related to climate change for review at the next State Board of Agriculture meeting, June 11-13, 2019 at the Oregon Garden Resort in Silverton, Oregon.

The resolution and the recommendation action is as follows:

**Proposed action: DRAFT - For review and discussion\***

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Resolution	Title	Subcommittee
New	Climate Change Policy Considerations	Brentano, Harper, Kitamura, Myers

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\* The State Board of Agriculture will be accepting public comment during the public comment opportunities listed on the board agenda. Comments may be limited to two minutes per individual.

# Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

<b>Title:</b> Climate Change Policy Considerations	<b>Number:</b> NEW <b>Effective Date:</b>
<b>Sub-Committee:</b> Brentano, Harper, Kitamura, Myers <b>ODA Staff Contact:</b> Stephanie Page	<b>Next Review Date:</b> <b>Date of Last Review/Revision:</b> <b>Original Resolution Date:</b>
<b>Board Chair:</b>	

## Draft: For review and discussion

### Background

WHEREAS, climate change is projected to impact Oregon agriculture in many ways, including but not limited to changing precipitation patterns, summer water shortages, increased average and extreme temperatures, and increased drought and fire.

WHEREAS, Oregon's agriculture industry is diverse in numerous ways, producing over 250 different commodities in various landscapes and climatic conditions, operating diverse production systems using a variety of inputs, depending on diverse markets both domestically and internationally, and partnering with numerous agriculture and food businesses to produce and process products.

WHEREAS, policies to address climate change will also affect agricultural production.

WHEREAS, policies that regulate greenhouse gas emissions will affect the costs of agricultural inputs including fuels, electricity, and fertilizer.

WHEREAS, competition and regulatory issues can cause emissions intensive trade exposed industries to explore out of state or overseas opportunities, potentially affecting industries that add value to Oregon agricultural products and contribute to Oregon's agricultural and food economies.

WHEREAS, climate change policy may also benefit agriculture by mitigating some of the most serious impacts of climate change, and by providing incentives and tools to help agriculture reduce its emissions and adapt to climate change.

WHEREAS, offsets are one type of incentive, but the costs to measure and verify the mitigation benefits of offset projects can be prohibitive for certain project types.

WHEREAS, other jurisdictions have experienced good participation from the agricultural sector in flexible, accessible, voluntary programs that invest allowance revenue into activities that help agriculture reduce its carbon footprint and adapt to climate change.

### Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon Board of Agriculture recommends any climate change related policies should:

- Maintain a healthy agricultural economy, including processing and infrastructure that adds value to Oregon agricultural production, and retain agriculture's ability to grow crops and livestock, harvest seafood, pack and process agricultural products economically in Oregon.
- Balance the need to reduce emissions from intensive and trade exposed industries with the goal of retaining these industries in the state.
- Recognize that if processing or other facilities leave the state because of higher costs due to carbon policy, we have not achieved the goal of reducing carbon and have simply moved emissions to another location while harming our economy and industry.
- Provide compliance assistance, including longer compliance time frames, technical assistance, and low-cost compliance instruments, for energy intensive trade exposed industries that are at risk of loss to overseas or out of state competitors.
- Support exemptions or rebates for fuel used in on-farm activities.
- Structure offset programs so they are as workable and accessible as possible for farmers and ranchers with diverse farm sizes, crop types, and production systems. An aggregation or cooperative effort of small and mid-size operations should be allowed under any offset program.
- Allocate funding for voluntary incentive programs to assist Oregon agriculture in adapting to the impacts of climate change.
- Create flexible funding programs, recognizing the diversity in Oregon's commodities, production methods, farm size, and changing and evolving technologies and strategies used.
- Design incentive programs to be as accessible as possible, including a straightforward and simple application process, delivery systems that use local partners such as Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and simple reporting requirements.
- Support research into strategies that help agriculture adapt to some of the projected impacts from climate change.
- Recognize the sequestration opportunities in agriculture and the benefits that longstanding stewardship activities such as protecting the soil, set aside lands with trees, shrubs and plants.

### **Summary**

Recommends that any climate change policies provide voluntary incentives for agriculture to mitigate and adapt to climate change; recognize agriculture's positive environmental and economic impacts; provide exemptions and compliance time frames to minimize adverse impacts to input costs and companion industries; and support research into additional strategies.

**Draft: For review and discussion**