

Date: September 10, 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.

At the June 2019 meeting, the full Board reviewed the draft and asked the working group to continue work on the draft resolution. The attached resolution amended 8/7/2019 is for review and discussion at the September 25-27, 2019 meeting in Madras, Oregon.

The resolution and the recommendation action is as follows:

Proposed action: DRAFT - For review and discussion*

Resolution	Title	Subcommittee
New	Climate Change Policy Considerations – revised 8/7/2019	Brentano, Harper, Kitamura, Myers

* 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

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

Draft: For review and discussion

[Updated DRAFT resolution: Climate Change Policy Considerations Working DRAFT, August 7, 2019](#)

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, clean and abundant ground and surface water is critical for agriculture, and climate change is affecting annual rainfall and snowpack that provides water for agriculture.](#)

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 intended help the state adapt to changing climate conditions, such as policies to address water shortages and water quality issues, will affect agriculture.](#)

WHEREAS, policies to address [greenhouse gas emissions](#) will also affect agricultural production, [even if agriculture is exempted from these policies.](#)

Deleted: climate change

WHEREAS, policies that regulate greenhouse gas emissions will affect the costs of agricultural inputs including fuels, electricity, and fertilizer, [impacting the cost of production as well as the cost of moving agriculture and food products to market.](#)

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

Deleted: ¶

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.
- [Consider the costs of transportation to move agricultural and food products to market, both within the state, domestically, and internationally, and maintain affordable transportation methods to move agricultural products to market both within and beyond the state.](#)
- 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.

- [Provide incentives to address the potential impacts of climate change to water supplies and water quality, and support agricultural practices that conserve water, modernize irrigation techniques, and develop water storage capacity.](#)
- [Consider adapting the state's water management policies to recognize the changes in climate conditions and water availability.](#)
- 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; support research into additional strategies; and support long-term planning, resource allocation and policy changes to help the state adapt to climate change.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Climate Change Policy Considerations

Number: NEW
Effective Date:

Sub-Committee:
Brentano, Harper, Kitamura, Myers
ODA Staff Contact: Stephanie Page

Next Review Date:
Date of Last Review/Revision:
Original Resolution Date:

Board Chair:

Draft: For review and discussion

Updated DRAFT resolution: Climate Change Policy Considerations
Working DRAFT, August 7, 2019

Background

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WHEREAS, policies to address greenhouse gas emissions will also affect agricultural production, even if agriculture is exempted from these policies.

WHEREAS, policies that regulate greenhouse gas emissions will affect the costs of agricultural inputs including fuels, electricity, and fertilizer, impacting the cost of production as well as the cost of moving agriculture and food products to market.

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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:

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- Support exemptions or rebates for fuel used in on-farm activities.
- Consider the costs of transportation to move agricultural and food products to market, both within the state, domestically, and internationally, and maintain affordable transportation methods to move agricultural products to market both within and beyond the state.
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