



HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Issue Advocacy



PROPERTY RIGHTS/ENVIRONMENT

- * Ongoing – Support efforts to reform the federal rulemaking process as well as laws such as the Endangered Species Act.
- * Ongoing – Oppose authorization of the use of eminent domain power by merchant transmission lines like Invenergy’s proposed Grain Belt Express.
- * 2020 – Successfully advocated for the Navigable Waters Protection Rule to replace the “Waters of the US” (WOTUS) rule.
- * 2019 – Ongoing – MOFB implemented a Feral Hog Study Group to review the issues associated with state and federal eradication efforts in Missouri and make recommendations for policy development. Farm Bureau continues to be involved in feral hog issues as a member of the Missouri Feral Hog Elimination Partnership.
- * 2019 – Successfully opposed the obligation of state funds for initial conversion of the Rock Island railway to a recreational trail.
- * 2019 – Worked with agricultural allies to pass legislation prohibiting county health ordinances that are stricter than or inconsistent with state laws and regulations pertaining to livestock production.
- * 2018 – Successfully worked for US Environmental Protection Agency approval of numeric nutrient criteria for lakes proposed by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) under court order.
- * 2014 – Led coalition of Missouri trade associations opposed to the “Waters of the US” (WOTUS) rule proposed by the EPA and Corps of Engineers to expand the agencies’ jurisdiction over land use.
- * 2014 - 2017 – Successfully opposed Clean Line Energy’s first two requests for authorization by the Missouri Public Service Commission to use eminent domain power for the proposed Grain Belt Express high voltage, direct current transmission line.
- * 2013 – Supported legislation placing on the ballot a constitution amendment strengthening “Right-to-Farm” protection. (Passed by Missouri voters in August 2014)
- * 2013 – Successfully opposed the designation of the White River as a National Blueway.
- * 2012 – Successfully advocated changes to proposed water quality standards that would have arbitrarily imposed extremely costly regulations and restrictions affecting rural Missouri.
- * 2012 – Helped a landowner stop condemnation of his farmland for the expansion of a municipal wastewater treatment system.
- * 2012 – Joined with 14 state Farm Bureaus, AFBF and 16 other national and regional agricultural organizations to successfully intervene in a lawsuit filed by environmental groups to force the EPA to set water quality standards limiting nutrients in waterways in the Mississippi River basin.
- * 2011 – Worked with an agricultural coalition to amend Proposition B, approved by voters in 2010, by providing more funding and authority for inspection and enforcement actions against disreputable dog breeders, raising standards of care for more dogs, and setting humane standards of care appropriate for species, age and health of the dog.
- * 2010 – Supported legislation to stop the EPA from implementing greenhouse gas regulations which were suspended in 2016 by the US Supreme Court.
- * 2010 – Worked with the Attorney General’s office to overturn a circuit court decision blocking expansion of a hog farm by imposing a 2- mile buffer around Arrow Rock State Park and associated historic sites.
- * 2010 - 2011 – Supported legislative initiatives to provide Missouri farms and ranches with greater protection from nuisance lawsuits.

- * 2010 - (Ongoing) – Supported legislation to provide Missouri producers with greater protection from unnecessary regulation and increased expenses as a result of ballot initiatives being promoted by animal rights organizations such as the Humane Society of the United States.
- * 2006 - 2009 – Opposed legislation that would have taken away the right of voters in many counties to decide whether their county could initiate planning under planning and zoning statutes.
- * 2006 – Led successful effort to pass meaningful eminent domain reform that prohibits the use of eminent domain solely for economic development purposes, expands “just compensation” to include factors beyond fair market value, reforms the process of acquiring easements, creates a “landowner bill of rights” and contains early notice provisions when the use of eminent domain is being considered.
- * 2006 – Supported the statewide 10% ethanol standard requiring all motor fuel sold in Missouri to contain 10% ethanol when the price is no higher than that of unblended fuel.

- * 2005 – Supported passage of the nation’s first comprehensive energy bill in 15 years.
- * 1989 - 1990 – Led the opposition to the Natural Streams Act ballot initiative which would have given the state of Missouri the authority to control and regulate 52 designated Missouri waterways and the activities on adjoining or related lands, affecting one-third of the land area of the state. (Defeated by Missouri voters in November 1990)
- * 1986 - 2000 – Worked in support of KATY landowners to uphold the principle that once a rail line is abandoned, the land acquired for use of the railroad should revert back to the ownership and control of the adjacent landowners. If the land is to be used for purposes other than a railroad (such as a hiking trail), then landowners need to be compensated for that taking.
- * 1982 – Supported passage of “Right-to-Farm” legislation to protect farmers against nuisance suits.
- * 1970 – Successfully opposed the Scenic River petition effort which would have restricted land uses along some 850 miles of Ozark streams.

TAXATION

- * Ongoing – Work to make the Section 179 federal tax exemption and related exemptions permanent.
- * 2018 – Supported passage of federal tax reform.
- * 2016 – Supported extending the sunset of MASBDA tax credits for value-added agriculture businesses.
- * 2016 – Successfully led efforts to overturn the State Tax Commission’s (STC) decision to increase productivity values by 5%.
- * 2012 – Successfully led efforts to overturn the STC’s decision to increase productivity values by 8% for Grades 1-4.
- * 2012 - (Ongoing) – Working to keep federal estate and capital gains tax relief in place as part of a comprehensive tax package.
- * 2010 – Successfully led efforts to overturn the STC’s decision to increase productivity values by up to 29 percent.
- * 2010 – Led efforts to repeal the estate tax or, at a minimum, enact a \$5 million exemption and a top rate of 35 percent. Legislation signed into law indexed the exemption for inflation and included stepped-up basis.
- * 2002 - 2010 – Led federal legislative efforts to keep capital gains tax cuts and repeal the estate tax.

- * 2008 – Supported expansion of state agricultural tax exemptions to include fuel and fencing supplies.
- * 2003 – Defeated efforts to eliminate the sales tax exemption for agricultural supplies.
- * 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006 – Successfully fought against higher property taxes on agricultural land.
- * 1995 – Worked for successful legislative approval of a constitutional amendment limiting the amount of taxes and fees the Missouri General Assembly can enact during any fiscal year without voter approval. (Passed by Missouri voters in 1996)
- * 1985 – Supported passage of legislation establishing the 12% assessment rate for farmland as valued by productive capability.
- * 1980 – Actively gathered signatures and supported passage of the constitutional amendment for Tax Limitation (the so called “Hancock Amendment”). (Passed by Missouri voters in November 1980)
- * 1979 – Supported legislation exempting farm machinery, equipment, repair parts and feed additives from state sales tax. (Years earlier Missouri’s manufacturing and mining sectors had secured comparable sales tax exemptions.)

- * 1975 – Supported the Farmland Assessment Bill establishing a special assessment providing for evaluation of agricultural lands based on current-use value rather than potential market value.
- * 1963 – Supported an increase in the sales tax from 2 cents to 3 cents.

- * 1933 - 1934 – Supported passage of the sales tax at an extra session of the legislature.
- * 1917 – Supported passage of Missouri’s first income tax law.

ROADS & WATERWAYS

- * Ongoing – Support additional funding for roads and bridges as long as the funding is split equitably between urban and rural Missouri.
- * Ongoing – Support reauthorization of federal highway (MAP 21) provisions to clarify regulations that apply to farmers and ranchers hauling their own commodities.
- *2019- Ongoing - Advocated for flood control and navigation interests along the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers following catastrophic flooding
- * 2015 – Successfully supported legislation that expanded maximum weights for trucks hauling grain during harvest and increased maximum weights for trucks hauling livestock.
- * 2015 – Supported legislation to increase infrastructure funding.
- * 2014 – Supported passage of the Water Resource Development and Reform Act to ensure continued federal investment in waterborne transportation.
- * 2012 – Led efforts to streamline and clarify regulations applicable to farmers hauling their own grain, livestock and supplies as part of the federal highway bill reauthorization.
- * 2010 - 2012 – Opposed the \$25 million study to review congressionally authorized purposes of the Missouri River pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944.
- * 1988 - 2012 – Represented landowner interests to prevent flooding and protect flows on the Missouri River. MOFB advocated for federal funding for levee repair and farmland restoration after the 2011 floods and partnered with University of Missouri Extension to host informational meetings for landowners.
- * 2007 – Supported passage of the Water Resources Development Act authorizing infrastructure improvements on the Upper Mississippi River to enhance waterborne transportation.

- * 1992 – Supported passage of legislation increasing the gasoline tax by 6 cents-a-gallon with increased funds used to finance specific projects proposed by the State Highway Commission.
- * 1987 – Supported Proposition A increasing the gasoline tax by 4 cents-a-gallon. (Passed by Missouri voters in April 1987)
- * 1982 – Supported Proposition B which proposed increasing the gasoline tax by 4 cents-a-gallon. (Defeated by Missouri voters in November 1982)
- * 1978 – Supported ballot issue to increase the gasoline tax by 3 cents-a-gallon. (Defeated by Missouri voters)
- * 1972 – Supported measure increasing the gasoline tax from 5 to 7 cents-a-gallon.
- * 1962 – Supported a constitutional amendment establishing a permanent allocation of gasoline tax revenue (80% to Highway Department; 15% to cities and 5% to counties). (Passed by Missouri voters in March 1962)
- * 1950 – Supported a 1 cent-a-gallon increase in state gasoline tax with additional revenue earmarked for rural roads. (Defeated by Missouri voters on a special election ballot)
- * 1948 – Supported the Curry Amendment for Better Roads, which proposed a 1 1/2 cent-a-gallon increase in the state gasoline tax with additional revenue earmarked for county roads and city streets. (Defeated by Missouri voters in November 1948)
- * 1945 – Supported the King Road Bill providing \$2 million per year for five years.
- * 1921 – Became the only farm organization in the state to support a \$60 million bond issue to “lift Missouri out of the mud” by funding badly needed road improvements throughout the state.

1/10-CENT SALES TAX FOR STATE PARKS & SOIL CONSERVATION

- * 2016 – Successfully led campaign for renewal of the 1/10-cent sales tax for soil conservation and state parks. (Passed by voters in November 2016)
- * 2010 – Opposed Governor Nixon’s \$2.26 million rescission of Soil and Water Conservation Program funds.
- * 2006 – Led successful effort to pass legislation placing the 1/10-cent sales tax on the August ballot in 2006 and every ten years thereafter. (Passed by Missouri voters in August 2006)
- * 1996 – Actively gathered signatures and supported passage of an initiative petition for another 10-year extension of the 1/10-cent sales tax. (Passed by Missouri voters in November 1996)
- * 1988 – Actively gathered signatures and supported passage of an initiative petition for a 10-year extension of the 1/10-cent sales tax. (Passed by Missouri voters in November 1988)
- * 1984 – Supported passage of a 1/10-cent sales tax earmarked for soil conservation and state parks.

SCHOOLS

- * 2009 - 2012 – Worked to enhance Career and Technical Education by opposing changes in the Missouri School Improvement Program that could have negatively affected the delivery of agriculture and other career education program areas as well as student organizations, such as FFA.
- * 1982 – Supported passage of Proposition C, a 1-cent sales tax for education with at least half the revenues used to reduce property taxes. (Passed by Missouri voters)
- * 1955 – Backed increase in state sales tax from 2 cents to 2 1/2 cents, which provided \$8 million more in funds for schools.
- * 1948 – Supported passage of school reorganization bill designed to modernize and equalize educational opportunities throughout the state.
- * 1940 & 1942 – Helped fight off attempts to divert public school funds for other uses.
- * The 1931 School Law – Provided state aid for rural schools and attempted to equalize the tax burden.

OTHER ISSUES

- * Ongoing –Leading the conversation surrounding rural broadband deployment at the local, state, and federal level.
- * Ongoing –Exploring new trade opportunities and evaluating existing trade agreements to ensure agricultural trade remains strong.
- * 2019 –2020 – Pushed for passage of the U.S., Mexico, Canada Agreement which updates and continues our strong trading partnership with Canada and Mexico.
- * 2018 – Worked for passage of a comprehensive Farm Bill that protected crop insurance and strengthened the farm safety net.
- * 2018 – Led the successful effort to pass the Missouri Rural Broadband Development Fund to facilitate broadband deployment into unserved and underserved areas of Missouri.
- * 2015 – Successfully advocated for renewal of Trade Promotion Authority (TPA).
- * 2014 - 2015 – Supported passage of an agriculture omnibus bill allowing cattle producers to vote on whether to institute a state checkoff and extending the equine activity liability waiver to include livestock activities.
- * 2012 - 2015 – Advocated for reinstatement of the prohibition on foreign ownership of farmland in Missouri.
- * 2014 – Supported passage of a strong Farm Bill that ensures and maintains Congressional and public support for federal commodity and risk management programs and supports farmers, ranchers and rural communities.
- * 2013 - 2014 – Worked successfully to pass legislation placing on the ballot the “Right to Farm” constitutional amendment that strengthened the legal protection for farmers and ranchers who comply with state laws and regulations to engage in farming and ranching practices. (Passed by Missouri voters in August 2014)

- * 2012 – Supported passage of omnibus agriculture legislation that included provisions requiring employees who take video footage depicting potential animal abuse at livestock facilities to submit unedited footage to law enforcement within 24 hours, increased truck weight limits for hauling milk from a farm to a processing facility, limited liability for agritourism operators and protected the right to exhibit livestock at the Missouri State Fair and other fairs and livestock shows.
- * 2011 - 2012 – Successfully led an effort to stop the US Department of Labor from implementing new regulations that would have limited opportunities for young people to work on relatives' farms and gain hands-on training through high school agriculture education courses.
- * 2008 – Supported passage of omnibus agriculture legislation that included a producer safety net under the National Animal Identification System, extended production incentive funds to ethanol derived from biomass, provided business grants for the purpose of acquiring dairy cattle and created a new Livestock Feed and Crop Input Loan Guarantee program.
- * 2003 - 2004 – Led successful efforts to pass legislation enhancing the use of tax credits issued for participation in new generation cooperatives and mandating widespread regulatory reform.
- * 2003 – Led state legislative efforts to stiffen penalties for individuals caught stealing anhydrous ammonia.
- * 2000 - 2001 – Supported legislation opposing the introduction of wild elk into Missouri.
- * 1979 – Supported legislation authorizing the establishment of commodity merchandising councils.

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