



# Equipment Dealers

## A S S O C I A T I O N

## 2016 Government Relations Policy Update

### Ratified June 29, 2016

#### 1. Endangered Species:

##### i. EDA believes that:

- a) Endangered and threatened species protection can be more effectively achieved by providing incentives to private landowners and public land users rather than by imposing land use restrictions and penalties.
- b) The Endangered Species Act (ESA) should not be reauthorized in its current form. The current ESA must be updated to accommodate the needs of both endangered and threatened species and humans with complete respect for private property rights within the framework of the United States Constitution.

#### 2. Energy Policy

EDA supports efforts to reduce the nation's dependence on foreign energy sources, a comprehensive energy policy should:

- i. repeals regulations which are based upon arbitrary standards, unsupported by scientific data.
- ii. lower the cost of production and consumer end costs.
- iii. promote a diversity of fuel sources.
- iv. encourage the development of alternative fuels, renewable fuels and next-generation technologies for wind, biomass, coal and nuclear fuels.
- v. Responsible use of public and private lands to ensure domestic energy needs are met.

#### 3. Healthcare

- i. EDA support the repeal and/or modification of the Affordable Care Act to make health insurance more affordable. In addition:
- ii. EDA supports the exclusion of Health Reimbursement Arrangements (HRAs) and Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) from the computation of the "Cadillac" tax imposed upon health care policies.
- iii. EDA also supports an amendment to the Affordable Care Act that would define a "full-time" worker as a worker who works a 40 hour work week.

- iv. EDA supports the right of employers to reimburse employees for health care coverage obtained outside of a dealer's group plan because of affordability considerations.
- v. EDA supports refundable tax credits for all taxpayers, individuals and businesses. Tax credits should be applicable to all forms of health insurance including dental and vision.
- vi. EDA supports the ability of private parties, including but not limited to insurance companies, to negotiate prescription drug pricing.
- vii. EDA supports the sale of insurance products across state lines.
- viii. EDA supports repeal of the 3% Medicare sur-tax.

#### 4. Immigration Reform

- i. EDA believes that guest workers are critical to maintaining a safe, reliable and economical food supply in the United States.
- ii. EDA supports an immigration policy that supports the needs of businesses and customers of dealers.
- iii. EDA supports a national employment verification that is reliable and workable for employers.

#### 5. Tax Policy

- i. EDA believes that the current IRS Code is unduly burdensome in its current form.
- ii. EDA supports tax reform which would alleviate these burdens and promote fairness.
- iii. EDA supports efforts to repeal unfair taxes such as the Federal Estate Tax and low limits on the Federal Gift Tax.
- iv. EDA opposes the retroactive repeal of LIFO.
- v. EDA supports the implementation of an equitable depreciation schedule.

#### 6. Trade

- i. EDA supports the passage and implementation of trade agreements that allow for and foster fair, free and equitable trade.

#### 7. Consumer Financial Protection

- i. EDA supports efforts to enhance consumer financial protection that provides safeguards against fraudulent organizations and their predatory products, services and activities. EDA supports efforts to ensure consumer access to clear and concise information about the terms and conditions of products and the risks they pose.
- ii. EDA opposes legislation that weakens consumer protection by allowing government to dictate the financial products that can be chosen. It also opposes any legislation that adds layers of government bureaucracy, imposes new costs to taxpayers, consumers and businesses, or threatens the privacy of personal financial information.

## 8. Farm Programs

- i. EDA supports farm programs and the continuation of the provisions and funding protocols outlined in the current bill legislation until its expiration. EDA supports this legislation and regulations that:
  - a) provides for planting flexibility
  - b) provides a safety net for producers and considers extreme weather conditions and trade related issues
  - c) balances the needs of conservation and the needs of land used for production
  - d) considers trade issues
  - e) supports education and research efforts
  - f) provides for rural development activities to include agricultural credit, beginning farmer programs and value-added programs for a renewable bio-economy
  - g) provides for educational programs to assist dealers to hire and retain quality employees in the agriculture and outdoor power equipment industries
  - h) EDA further supports the formation of and membership in coalitions to enhance the objectives of the association as Congress begins discussions related to the next farm bill.

## 9. General Policy Statement (U.S. and Canada)

- i. EDA adopted the association's mission statement, "Committed to building the best business environment for North American equipment dealers," and motto, "Helping Dealers Succeed," to direct EDA in its actions where no specific policy exists.

## 10. Labor Policy

- i. EDA supports long-standing principles of balance and fairness in federal and state labor laws. Legislation considered an assault on the rights of employees and employers or a threat to constructive dialogue and agreement between employees and employers will be opposed by EDA.
- ii. For the purposes of this policy, card check, ambush elections and in the Affordable Care Act a definitions of 30 hours for full-time workers are representative examples of the types of labor issues EDA would oppose.

## 11. Tort Reform

- i. EDA supports the efforts of individuals, associations, insurance companies and others to solve the increasing problem of cost and availability of liability insurance coverage. These efforts should protect businesses, property, landowners and tenants from frivolous liability claims, medical malpractice claims, and place limitations on attorneys' contingency fees. New legislation also should modify current law to encourage that liability litigation be filed and commence in the jurisdiction where a service or product is provided or in a plaintiff's official domicile.

## 12. Tractor Heights, Weights and Lengths

- i. EDA supports public policy that calls for an “understanding” that farm and ranch equipment do not use public roadways in the same manner or with the frequency of the trucking industry and should not be held to the same height, length and weight restrictions. Any legislation or regulation should consider that:
- ii. This equipment is designed and manufactured to have the least impact possible on the soil where crops are grown, use on public roads is simply a way to get from the dealer to the farm and from one field to the next a few times each year.
- iii. The axle configuration of a farm tractor and the equipment it tows, has nothing in common with the typical semi-tractor trailer rig. Formulas designed to regulate the over the road trucking industry, if applied to farm equipment, would force farmers to turn their backs on the advancements in modern, more efficient equipment, making them less productive.
- iv. If states and counties have issue with damage being done to roadways by agricultural related industries, they should focus their attention on equipment that has been overloaded - often modified by the end user to carry loads never intended by the manufacturer.
- v. Manure tanks and grain carts can be loaded “less than full” when road condition require. It is very difficult to change the total weight of a tractor pulling tillage / planting equipment down the road a few miles to the next field. EDA supports a carve-out for such equipment from the axle formulas in favor of a gross weight limit for the tractor and equipment being towed.
- vi. Permits, if required, should be issued on an annual basis for equipment dealers for all equipment movements from a dealership to a farm, a farm to a dealership or from one dealership to another dealership or repair facility, auction house or other facility during daylight hours.

## 13. Transportation Funding

- i. EDA supports the passage of a permanent funding mechanism for transportation infrastructure upgrades.

## 14. Water Resources and Infrastructure

- i. EDA supports legislation and/or court action would repeal or invalidate “Waters of the U.S.”

## 15. Engine Retrofitting (U.S. and Canada)

- i. EDA supports government financial incentives for farmers, dealers and manufacturers to retrofit older diesel engines to improve fuel efficiency and to reduce pollution.

## 16. Equipment Movement (U.S. and Canada)

- i. EDA supports the free movement of farm equipment across the U.S. – Canadian border and encourages both governments to streamline paperwork and the requirements for equipment transfers between countries.

17. Equipment Safety (U.S. and Canada)

- i. EDA supports a process that ensures equipment is imported from overseas meets Canadian and U.S. safety standards.

18. Training (U.S and Canada)

- i. EDA supports federal and provincial investment tax credits to assist with the costs of training employees.

19. Consumer Financial Protection (Canada)

- i. EDA supports efforts to enhance consumer financial protection that provides safeguards against fraudulent organizations and their predatory products, services and activities. EDA supports efforts to ensure consumer access to clear and concise information about the terms and conditions of products and the risks they pose.
- ii. EDA opposes legislation that weakens consumer protection by allowing government to dictate the financial products that can be chosen. It also opposes any legislation that adds layers of government bureaucracy, imposes new costs to taxpayers, consumers and businesses, or threatens the privacy of personal financial information.

20. Equipment Depreciation (Canada)

- i. EDA supports an increase in the first year depreciation rate on agricultural equipment to 40 percent. EDA further supports a comprehensive review of current CCA categories for farm equipment.

21. Small Business Tax Deduction (Canada)

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- i. EDA supports an increase in the federal small business deduction threshold to \$800,000.

22. Labour Policy (Canada)

- i. EDA supports long-standing principles of balance and fairness in federal and provincial laws. Legislation considered an assault on the rights of employees and employers or a threat to constructive dialogue and agreement between employees and employers will be opposed by EDA.

23. OSHA Reform

- i. EDA supports OSHA reform measures that would allow greater adjudicative flexibility when OSHA issues a citation or assessment of a penalty.

24. Regulatory Reform

- i. EDA supports regulatory reform by Congress that would restore checks and balances to the regulatory process. We support increased public participation in the rulemaking process; restricting agencies' use of interim final regulations;

providing for a more rigorous test as to the cost of the regulations; and requiring agencies to choose the least costly regulatory option unless the agency can prove a need to protect public health, safety or welfare.

- ii. We also support regulatory reform legislation that would require regulators to consider impacts and costs of their rules on small businesses before they can be adopted. In addition EDA supports measures which would allow agencies to have greater adjudicative flexibility when issuing citation(s) or assessing penalties so that the intent of a given regulatory scheme can be served rather than simply using the scheme to generate revenue.