

Debated and ratified at the Iowa Farmers Union State Convention, December 2, 2023, Storm Lake, IA

2023 Iowa Farmers Union Annual Convention

Special Order of Business

OPPOSING CO2 PIPELINE USE OF EMINENT DOMAIN

WHEREAS, The Iowa Farmers Union supports biofuels as a first step to a more climate friendly transportation system while acknowledging that several aspects of biofuels production (including carbon footprint questions) indicate they are not yet a long-term solution. And,

WHEREAS, Using pipelines and deep earth burial are not the only, or best solution but will only perpetuate an unsustainable system; and new technologies for carbon capture and removal are being developed; and most of these make the carbon or CO2 reusable for other purposes and require much less energy. And,

WHEREAS, Viable solutions exist that do not require transporting a dangerous product through pipelines. And,

WHEREAS, One of our country's founding principles is the supremacy of property rights, which can only be abridged for uses deemed to provide significant public benefit; and the proposed pipelines are being built by outside interests and financiers who hope to exploit tax benefits for their personal gain which will also leave Iowa; and the claims of providing public benefit fail to rise to the level to justify the use of eminent domain. And,

WHEREAS, If pipeline developers are unable to negotiate satisfactory agreements with landowners in their respective paths, they should abandon these projects. And,

WHEREAS, The track record of other pipelines in Iowa has shown that instead of providing public good, they cost farmers millions in lost revenue; and their construction causes long-term damage to soil health; and drainage system disruptions are often ongoing; and crop yields suffer long term; and property values are lowered. And,

WHEREAS, the proposed pipelines will carry an extremely deadly compound which poses imminent danger if it leaks for all life, plus creating a very serious danger for emergency personnel. Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That because the public benefit falls significantly short, and because the right to secure our property is so important, the Iowa Farmers Union reaffirms its demand that Iowa Utilities Board deny the use of eminent domain for these pipelines.

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Support for Farmers in Ukraine

WHEREAS, Farmers around the world are united by a desire to grow food for their communities;

WHEREAS, the United States made a promise to Ukraine when it signed the Budapest memorandum over 30 years ago to protect it from Russian aggression;

WHEREAS, Food security is intricately tied to national security and all people everywhere are entitled to food security as a basic human right; Therefore be it

RESOLVED, The Iowa Farmers Union stands with the people of Ukraine in their fight for freedom and democracy and urges those involved in conflicts and wars around the world to protect farmers and to preserve agricultural systems as essential pieces of world peace and security.

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Palestinian-Israeli Peace

Whereas, the current conflict between Israel and Hamas has resulted in a humanitarian crisis and loss of life for the Palestinian people. Hamas attacked Israeli soldiers and civilians on October 7th, 2023. In return, Israel has attacked Gaza, and to a lesser extent, the West Bank. As of December 2, 2023, between 15,000 and 20,000 civilians have been killed in 8 weeks, the majority of which were women and children.

Resolved, Hamas' initial attack constitutes war crimes and crimes against humanity. Israel's military response to the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack is completely out of proportion and also constitutes war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Resolved, the United States government should halt all funding of Israel's military and prevent the continued loss of many innocent lives.

Resolved, we stand for basic human rights, including: the ability to live free from occupation and to move freely without constraint.

Resolved, we support local, national, and international rights to boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) movements for liberation. We support peoples' rights to participate in BDS and to gather publicly in protest.

Resolved, we stand against any form of anti-semitism and Islamophobia.

Resolved, we as farmers, understand a family connection to land. We support freedom for Palestinians and an end to Israeli occupation. We support the state of Israel and the path to a two-state solution.

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Foreign Ownership of Farmland

WHEREAS, The largest obstacle to beginning farmers is a lack of access to farmland;

WHEREAS, All farmers are threatened by an ongoing massive consolidation of farmland into the hands of a few;

WHEREAS, foreign entities owning American Farmland threatens American food security, which is intricately tied to national security;

WHEREAS, Iowa law currently prohibits foreign ownership of farmland in all but a few limited exemptions;

WHEREAS, Multiple methods exist for non-farming foreign entities to acquire or gain access to land for non-farming purposes that do not require changes in Iowa farmland ownership laws; Therefore be it

RESOLVED, The Iowa Farmers Union opposes efforts to weaken Iowa's foreign ownership of farmland laws.

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Local Foods Purchasing Incentives

WHEREAS, we define ‘local food’ as food grown and/ or raised or value-added products produced with food grown and/or raised for human consumption in Iowa and adjacent counties;

WHEREAS, there are increasing government investments in local food purchasing incentives to support local food, where the food purchased is used in schools and food assistance programs;

WHEREAS, we believe that any state funding directed to food banks, schools, or food assistance organizations for food purchasing be used to source those foods directly from local food farms or via food hubs;

RESOLVED, The Iowa Farmers Union supports the use of government investments for local food purchasing incentives.