



Master Policy List

June 2017

Headquarters Office

1301 W. Seventh St., Suite 201
Fort Worth, Texas 76102
817-332-7064

Austin Office

1005 Congress Ave., Suite 1050
Austin, Texas 78701
512-469-0171

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AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION (ARE)

Red Imported Fire Ants (ARE-1)

WHEREAS, the red imported fire ant invasion and its spread throughout Texas and the U.S. is a serious threat to the cattle industry and is a health and economic threat to people, animals, and crops; and

WHEREAS, the red imported fire ant costs billions of dollars per year and causes many indirect problems through effects on industrial and commercial infrastructures and ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, federal restrictions have limited rancher's abilities to control this pest; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature established the Fire Ant Research and Management Account Advisory Committee to develop a research and management plan that would assist in the control of the red imported fire ant on rural and urban private property; and

WHEREAS, much progress has been made toward the goal of controlling the red imported fire ant through the interdisciplinary research, education program, and implementation of the Texas Imported Fire Ant Research and Management Plan; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA urges the federal and state regulatory agencies to expeditiously approve chemical and biological products that can effectively control red imported fire ants and be ecologically safe; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA strongly encourages the federal and state government to continue to fully support and adequately fund fire ant research, education, and regulatory programs.

new 6/20/03, revised 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, renewed 9/26/14

Texas A&M AgriLife Agencies and Texas A&M University System (ARE-2)

WHEREAS, the Texas A&M University System, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, the Texas A&M Forest Service and the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, play a major role in serving Texas agriculture and natural resources through service, research and education programs that address important issues and challenges faced by Texas agriculture and private landowners; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports adequate federal and/or state funding for these state agencies and university system to maintain and develop important programs and to ensure that these agencies and university system may continue to enhance and protect Texas agriculture, natural resources, and the lives of Texans.

new 6/25/96, revised 3/21/05, renewed 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13

Texas Tech University System (ARE-3)

WHEREAS, research performed within the Texas Tech University System has resulted in new and improved methods of providing consumers with nutritious, safe, and wholesome beef; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Tech University System has played an important role in preserving and improving Texas rangelands and wildlife, while protecting and enhancing the environment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports adequate federal and/or state funding for the Texas Tech University System for agricultural research that benefits the cattle industry and private landowners.

new 10/25/96, renewed 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13

**Agricultural Research
(ARE-4)**

WHEREAS, research is critical to the success of the cattle industry; and

WHEREAS, strong state and federal programs and initiatives of integrated multidisciplinary research are required for the future success of the cattle industry; and

WHEREAS, food safety, cattle health and well-being and the effects of cattle production on the environment are important to cattle raisers and consumers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA review and evaluate state and federal research programs and initiatives to determine their impact on the cattle industry; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA support the development, integration, and funding of state and federal research programs and initiatives that would benefit the cattle industry.

new 3/28/01, renewed 10/2/09, revised 4/1/12, renewed 9/30/16

**Pharmaceutical Development for Control of Feral Swine
(ARE-5)**

WHEREAS, feral swine are a terrible economic problem to farmers and ranchers in Texas causing millions of dollars in losses to crops and pasture land; and

WHEREAS, feral swine are nocturnal, with an extremely short gestation period and large litter sizes, which render present day control means ineffective; and

WHEREAS, the technology of conception prevention and sterilization in domestic swine has been commercially available for years but it has not adapted for use in feral swine; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA encourages the development of a product by university researchers and the pharmaceutical industry for landowner use that is safe and effective for the control of feral swine.

new 10/1/10, renewed 9/26/14

CATTLE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING (CHW)

**Animal Welfare
(CHW-1)**

WHEREAS, farmers and ranchers have long been concerned with the welfare of livestock; and

WHEREAS, farmers and ranchers disagree with the position taken by those who believe that animals have legal and moral rights similar to humans; and

WHEREAS, the entire livestock industry often must bear the brunt of regulatory action and public ill will over the misguided and inappropriate actions of a few; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA, recognizing that good animal health, care, production, and handling practices are essential to efficient, humane, and profitable production, calls upon and urges its members to continue to follow commonly accepted livestock and business management practices in animal health and care.

new 3/20/89, renewed 3/21/05, renewed 10/2/09, renewed 9/27/13, renewed 9/26/14

**Accepted Livestock Management Practices
(CHW-2)**

WHEREAS, the cattle industry values and relies on veterinarians to assist in keeping livestock healthy; and

WHEREAS, many livestock management practices can be performed without the assistance of a veterinarian and/or their staff; and

WHEREAS, these practices have been safely and humanely performed by ranchers for many generations, are accepted and recognized by the cattle industry and the Texas State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, and not subject to the Texas Veterinary Licensing Act; and

WHEREAS, the treatment or care of livestock in any manner by the owner of the livestock, an employee of the owner, or a designated caretaker of the livestock, is not subject to the Texas Veterinary Licensing Act; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the continuation of accepted livestock management practices, including, but not limited to: branding or identifying in any manner, castrating, docking, ear-marking, dehorning, aiding in nonsurgical birth, treatment with nonprescription medicine or vaccine, artificial insemination, palpating, and horse shoeing; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA oppose legislative and regulatory efforts that attempt to require that these or other similar accepted livestock management practices be performed by a veterinarian; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA oppose legislative and regulatory efforts to change the status of non-prescription or over-the-counter medications to require a prescription from a veterinarian or a veterinary feed directive; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA oppose educational and/or training efforts that directly or indirectly state that these or other similar accepted livestock management practices are not safe and/or that they should be performed by a veterinarian.

new 9/27/13, revised 9/30/16

**Antibiotics, Antimicrobials, Ionophores, and other Compounds
(CHW-3)**

WHEREAS, antibiotics, antimicrobials, ionophores, and other compounds are important animal health tools for prevention, control, and treatment of disease in all segments of beef cattle production; and

WHEREAS, the use of antibiotics, antimicrobials, ionophores, and other compounds is necessary at times to ensure the proper health and wellbeing of cattle; and

WHEREAS, improper use of antibiotics, antimicrobials, ionophores, and other compounds may lead to the development of bacterial resistance; and

WHEREAS, cattle producers have an obligation to protect animal health while also promoting food safety; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, TSCRA strongly supports the judicious use of antibiotics, antimicrobials, ionophores, and other compounds; and, be it further

RESOLVED, TSCRA supports the use of sound, peer-reviewed science when addressing issues that involve the use of antibiotics, antimicrobials, ionophores, and other compounds in animals and humans; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA work with all appropriate entities, industry organizations, and government officials to ensure that cattle producers' access and ability to use these products are retained.

new 9/25/15

**Transmission of Animal Diseases
(CHW-4)**

WHEREAS, modern transportation, increasing global commerce, and relative ease of movement across nations and continents make possible the transfer of people, products and animals around the world in a matter of hours; and

WHEREAS, such international movement greatly enhances the possibility and probability of the transmission of diseases and parasites which could devastate the livestock industries and threaten the public health of this country whether by accident or bio-terrorism; and

WHEREAS, once an outbreak occurs, the cost of eradication of the disease is much more than proper prevention measures; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA implores all elected representatives at both the state and federal level to give most favorable consideration to any appropriations, which can enhance this country's capabilities to prevent, detect and control animal disease and parasites and, likewise, to strongly oppose any budgetary reductions that might diminish such capabilities; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA urges all federal and state agencies to consider health threats to the animal industries, wildlife and food supply of this country when creating and enforcing travel and trade agreements and regulations.

new 3/28/01, renewed 3/25/04, renewed 10/2/09, renewed 9/27/13

**Animal Disease Traceability
(CHW-5)**

WHEREAS, TSCRA has been in the cattle identification business since 1877 and today maintains a very efficient and effective cattle identification system that serves an important function for Texas cattle producers; and

WHEREAS, TSCRA continues to be an industry leading organization on animal identification issues; and

WHEREAS, intrastate and interstate animal identification rules and programs have been developed for the purpose of establishing a means to aid animal disease traceability; and

WHEREAS, these federal and state rules and programs enable the cattle industry, state and federal animal health officials to respond rapidly and effectively to animal health emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the cattle industry is placing renewed emphasis on preventing the introduction of foreign animal diseases of concern; and

WHEREAS, U.S. beef exports to certain countries have suffered due to the absence of an animal disease traceability program; and

WHEREAS, the federal and state disease traceability rules and programs do not eliminate the need for continued brand inspection programs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA be at the forefront of discussions on any modifications to the federal and/or state animal disease traceability rules and programs requiring animal identification, and maintain that any such regulations, imposed at the state and/or federal level, adhere to the following criteria:

1. Additional costs to the beef and dairy industry must be minimized.
2. Any information relative to cattle identification information should be under the control of state animal health officials and kept confidential.
3. The system must operate at the speed of commerce.
4. The priority livestock for participation in the framework is the individual identification of sexually intact cattle 18 months of age or older excluding cattle going direct to slaughter.

5. Producers must be protected from liability for acts of others after cattle have left their control.
6. The purpose of the animal disease traceability system should be solely animal disease surveillance, control, and eradication. The only data required to be collected should be that necessary to accomplish this goal.
7. Support the flexibility of using currently established and evolving official identification methods.
8. The animal data management system does not replace or impede existing TSCRA brand inspection activities.

new 3/10/04, revised 10/2/09, revised 6/18/10, revised 10/1/10, revised 9/27/13, revised 9/26/14

**Foreign Animal Diseases
(CHW-6)**

WHEREAS, imported animals or birds may carry hidden or undisclosed disease or vectors that can transmit foreign animal disease; and

WHEREAS, certain animals have passed through federal quarantine without the discovery of certain vectors for disease; and

WHEREAS, state veterinarians have a more complete and thorough knowledge of the environmental, climatic, and geographic factors, which could affect the spread of a disease and have a negative impact on existing or evolving animal populations; and

WHEREAS, existing receiving state restrictions may be compromised regarding health status, acceptable facilities and/or environmental impact of certain animal and avian species; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA strongly urges the U.S. Department of Agriculture to direct their inspector in charge at all import or quarantine stations to notify the state veterinarian prior to the release of any such imports and supply that official with the name, address, and phone number of the recipient and a list of those animals or birds which are being released to go to that state.

new 7/15/89, revised 9/29/05, renewed 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13

**Border Inspections
(CHW-7)**

WHEREAS, due to violence along the Texas-Mexico border, USDA is inspecting cattle from Mexico for diseases and ticks after entering Texas; and

WHEREAS, these cattle and the trucks transporting them can enhance the threat of a disease and tick outbreak in Texas and the U.S.; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA strongly supports the continued inspection of cattle on the Mexican side of the border over the long-term and demands that the U.S. Congress and the Texas Legislature provide funding and resources for more secure federal and state inspections to occur; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports proper federal, state, and local disease inspection mitigation and emergency management measures be in place in Texas to ensure the safety of the Texas and U.S. cattle industry.

new 3/16/88, renewed 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, renewed 9/26/14

Inspection of Live Cattle and Beef from Foreign Countries (CHW-8)

WHEREAS, foreign animal diseases could cause a widespread quarantine and possible massive depopulation of the U.S. cattle herd, thus compromising national security and jeopardizing the U.S. beef supply; and

WHEREAS, protecting the U.S. cattle industry is a major priority for TSCRA and other industry partners; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is responsible for regulating the importation of live cattle, beef, and beef products from foreign countries into the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the effectiveness and quality of USDA inspection of live cattle, beef, and beef product imports is imperative to the health and economic success of the U.S. cattle industry; and

WHEREAS, some foreign countries with histories of significant chronic animal diseases, such as foot and mouth disease, have petitioned the USDA to import live cattle, beef, and/or beef products into the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the USDA's ability to accurately evaluate the risk of animal diseases in these foreign countries can be uncertain and inconclusive; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA oppose the importation of live cattle, beef, and/or beef products into the U.S. from foreign countries with histories of significant chronic animal diseases and lack of strict animal disease control and eradication measures; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports independent scientific and legal analyses of USDA proposals, risk assessments, and supporting information, when necessary, to substantiate risk levels of imported live cattle, beef, and/or beef products and assure the protection of the U.S. cattle industry; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA urges the USDA to include U.S. cattle industry stakeholders in any negotiations with foreign countries relating to efforts that may affect the health of the U.S. cattle industry and provide the U.S. cattle industry opportunities to comment on new procedures for developing risk analyses for any foreign country with significant chronic animal disease issues wishing to export live cattle, beef, and/or beef products into the U.S.; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that slaughter, processing, transporting, and other facilities and equipment used to export foreign live cattle, beef, and/or beef products into the U.S. be subject to equivalent, or greater, inspection and sanitation requirements applicable to U.S. inspected facilities and equipment; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA requests that the USDA continue to take all reasonable and appropriate measures to protect the U.S. cattle industry from the introduction of foreign animal diseases and communicate to foreign countries that wish to export live cattle, beef, and/or beef products to the U.S. to commit to enhanced efforts to control and eradicate animal diseases that may be a chronic problem in their country; and, be it further

RESOLVED, USDA protocols be substantiated by sound, scientific evidence and that animal health related regulations not be used as non-tariff trade barriers.

new 4/6/14

Screwworm Eradication in Foreign Countries (CHW-10)

WHEREAS, the screwworm eradication program is a monument to the success of science, the government and the private sector cooperating for the benefit of mankind; and

WHEREAS, such cooperation has resulted in the eradication of screwworm in the U.S. and Central America; and

WHEREAS, the Commission for the Eradication and Prevention of Screwworm (COPEG) was created between the U.S. and Panama in 1994, as part of the USDA Regional Plan for screwworm eradication in Central America; and

WHEREAS, the continued existence of the screwworm in remote foreign areas presents a constant threat to the U.S.; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA urges the U.S. Congress and USDA to fully support screwworm eradication activities with appropriate resources in Central America, Cuba, and the Caribbean Islands to protect the U.S. and assure foreign and domestic eradication efforts are ultimately successful.

new 3/21/05, revised 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, renewed 9/25/15

Brucellosis - Greater Yellowstone Area (CHW-11)

WHEREAS, bovine brucellosis in bison and elk of the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA), to include the designated surveillance area (DSA) in the affected states, is a threat to the livestock industries and wildlife in the states of the GYA and the United States; and

WHEREAS, the movement of negative, exposed animals to other states, even after extensive testing, may be a significant risk and could jeopardize the brucellosis status of other states; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA is unequivocally opposed to the movement of brucellosis exposed bison and/or elk from the GYA to include the DSA in the affected states; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports reasonable testing requirements by the Texas Animal Health Commission for cattle moving from the GYA, to include the DSA, in the affected states into Texas; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA encourages the USDA to continue to evaluate immunity alternatives for bovine brucellosis in bison and elk, identify any vaccine related issues, and conduct epidemiological studies to track the frequency of cases of transmission between bison, elk and cattle; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports strict DSA quarantine procedures and accountability of all animals, as developed by the GYA state animal health agencies in cooperation with USDA; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports research in the GYA that has strict controls by the USDA, including, but not limited to, research animals shall not be grazed under range conditions, strict accountability of all research animals, and terminal use of all research animals.

new 11/12/94, renewed 9/29/05, renewed 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13

Brucellosis - Testing and Surveillance (CHW-12)

WHEREAS, billions of federal, state and private funds have been invested in the national and state brucellosis eradication efforts since 1951; and

WHEREAS, Texas and other states have achieved brucellosis free status while working to achieve the national cattle industry goal of eradicating bovine brucellosis nationwide; and

WHEREAS, funding reductions at the federal, state and industry levels will continue to occur in future years and the need for brucellosis eradication, testing, and/or surveillance efforts will continue; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA continue to work with and support the efforts of the TAHC, USDA and other cattle industry stakeholders to keep Texas brucellosis free; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that if budget reductions are necessary that TSCRA supports changes to the state brucellosis program that do not appreciably increase the risk for brucellosis in the state cattle herd; remain in compliance with the federal brucellosis program requirements; and do not impact interstate movement of Texas cattle due to restrictions and/or increased testing requirements imposed by other states; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports:

- Voluntary brucellosis testing at auction, private, and show sales, especially for cattle returning to herds for breeding purposes
- Brucellosis vaccination of heifers as recommended by the TAHC
- USDA approved packer level brucellosis surveillance procedures that test an appropriate statistical number of cattle to accurately assess and/or detect the risk of brucellosis and that comply with federal brucellosis program requirements

new 3/22/95, revised 9/29/05, renewed 10/2/09, revised 6/17/11, revised 9/26/12, renewed 9/26/14

Swine Brucellosis Infection in Cattle (CHW-13)

WHEREAS, swine brucellosis (*brucella suis*) is an infectious disease of swine that can also affect humans and cattle; and

WHEREAS, swine brucellosis is endemic in Texas' feral swine population; and

WHEREAS, swine brucellosis infection in cattle causes economic losses to the beef industry; and

WHEREAS, swine brucellosis infection in cattle can interfere with the interpretation of serologic (blood) tests used to diagnose *brucella abortus* (cattle brucellosis) in the Texas cattle population; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports increased research on swine brucellosis infection in cattle, to develop differentiating serologic tests, develop effective vaccines for cattle, and better control mechanisms for the disease.

new 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13

Tuberculosis (CHW-14)

WHEREAS, TSCRA represents thousands of cattle producers who own and/or manage millions of cattle that are susceptible to tuberculosis; and

WHEREAS, the National Tuberculosis Eradication Program has successfully reduced the incidence of tuberculosis in U.S. cattle; and

WHEREAS, the final stages of a national eradication program require a more concerted effort to achieve the end goal; and

WHEREAS, the USDA is becoming more dependent upon state animal health agencies and cattle industry stakeholders to help in the surveillance, testing, eradication, and control of tuberculosis; and

WHEREAS, testing of imported cattle has not been adequate to prevent tuberculosis in U.S. cattle; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports USDA rules that are based on sound science and import data that provide for adequate testing and surveillance of domestic and imported cattle and wildlife (as needed) while not impeding international trade; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA urges USDA to expedite research and evaluation of diagnostic approaches to improve the accuracy of importation testing procedures and to continue participation in bi-national tuberculosis meetings with Mexico; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the efforts of the Texas Animal Health Commission to find science-based, economical, and feasible solutions to keep Texas free of bovine tuberculosis.

new 3/25/92, revised 9/29/05, renewed 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, renewed 9/25/15

**Cattle Fever Tick Eradication
(CHW-15)**

WHEREAS, the National Cattle Fever Tick Eradication program was initiated in 1906 and was initially funded by the U.S. Congress in 1907 as a cooperative pest eradication effort between federal and state governments and the cattle industry ; and

WHEREAS, a permanent quarantine area was established along the Texas side of the Rio Grande River in 1938 to prevent re-establishment of cattle fever ticks from Mexico into Texas; and

WHEREAS, cattle fever ticks were eradicated from all 14 states that comprised the fever tick's historical range and were pushed across the Rio Grande River by 1943; and

WHEREAS, since 1943, the permanent cattle fever tick quarantine area has been maintained by the cooperative efforts of the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) and USDA; and

WHEREAS, the cattle fever tick eradication program has been successful in protecting the Texas and U.S. cattle industry against a wide spread re-invasion of cattle fever ticks, the vector of Texas cattle fever (babesiosis) for many decades; and

WHEREAS, TSCRA members have been leaders in cattle fever tick eradication efforts and have been strong advocates for the development and execution of federal and state programs to manage and eradicate the cattle fever tick from the Texas and U.S. cattle industry; and

WHEREAS, the control of cattle fever ticks along the Texas-Mexico border continues to be a very significant animal health issue for the Texas and U.S. cattle industry due to the increasing level of treatment resistance in cattle fever ticks and role of wildlife, especially white-tailed deer and nilgai; and

WHEREAS, the continued success of cattle fever tick eradication efforts depend upon the research and development of new products, appropriate surveillance and testing procedures, and the development and implementation of additional eradication strategies; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA strongly support the efforts of the TAHC and USDA for surveillance, control, testing, and treatment of any livestock and/or wildlife that may serve as a host for cattle fever ticks, while recognizing the importance of cattle production in all quarantine zones; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA urges the U.S. Congress and Texas Legislature to provide adequate funding for cattle fever tick eradication efforts, including research; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports efficient, timely, and cost-effective federal and state approval of any new products to treat cattle fever ticks and/or any re-registration of existing products used to effectively treat cattle fever ticks.

new 6/7/05, renewed 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, renewed 9/25/15, renewed 9/30/16

**Fever Tick Eradication in Ungulates
(CHW-16)**

WHEREAS, the eradication of fever ticks has been compromised by the infestation of fever ticks on white-tailed deer, nilgai, and other ungulates; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) has jurisdiction over the importation and movement of exotic wildlife, including nilgai, in Texas; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has conducted research, including field trials, successfully demonstrating the effectiveness of ivermectin treated corn to eradicate fever ticks from white-tailed deer; and

WHEREAS, such demonstrated effectiveness has resulted in the eradication of fever ticks from certain infested areas; and

WHEREAS, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) have curtailed the use of ivermectin corn and other feed resulting in the re-infestation of fever ticks in certain areas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports reasonable TAHC regulations to ensure that the importation and/or movement of exotic wildlife does not pose a significant tick risk to the Texas cattle industry; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the use of treated corn or other feed to eradicate fever ticks in white-tailed deer and other ungulates and urges the TAHC, USDA, FDA, EPA, and FWS to take all steps necessary to allow the use of ivermectin treated corn and other feed; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports funding for continued research on ivermectin treated corn and other feed; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA urges the TAHC to work with cattle producers to develop and implement proper safeguards to prevent the inappropriate feeding of ivermectin treated corn or other feed by landowners or their lessees; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the development and use of other products to control fever ticks on white-tailed deer and other ungulates; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports reasonable and proactive population control of fever tick hosts on public lands within a fever tick zone; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA strongly urges all local, state, and federal agencies responsible for the management of public lands within a fever tick zone to abide by the same laws, regulations, protocols, and management strategies required of adjacent private landowners.

new 4/8/98, renewed 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, renewed 9/25/15, revised 9/30/16

Tropical Bont Tick (CHW-17)

WHEREAS, the tropical bont tick and its associated diseases, heartwater and acute bovine dermatophilosis, are found in the Caribbean; and

WHEREAS, this tick and these diseases pose a serious threat to the cattle industry and wildlife, especially deer, in the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA urges USDA to continue to work on the rapid eradication of the tropical bont tick from the Caribbean region.

new 10/8/88, revised 1992, renewed 3/21/05, renewed 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, renewed 9/30/16

BSE Surveillance and Firewall (CHW-18)

WHEREAS, U.S. and international consumer confidence of beef is essential and maintaining domestic demand and reopening our export markets are critical; and

WHEREAS, the international perception is that the U.S. is part of a North American beef industry; and

WHEREAS, a sound scientific approach utilizing government and industry firewalls are effective to protect consumers and the U.S. cattle herd; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports a science based, statistically sound monitoring plan and system of firewalls that properly monitor the U.S. cattle herd for BSE and maintains and ensures confidence in the beef supply; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA strongly urges USDA, FDA and other agencies to ensure that any additional changes to such monitoring plans and firewalls be implemented in the most scientifically sound manner possible and only after adequate industry review and input.

new 3/10/04, revised 9/29/05, renewed 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13

**Johne's Disease
(CHW-19)**

WHEREAS, Johne's Disease is an infectious disease causing economic losses to the beef industry; and

WHEREAS, there is no current treatment for the disease; and

WHEREAS, deficiencies in current tests and testing procedures impede the development of a control program for Johne's Disease; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports herd security measures, continued efforts to certify laboratories, and increased research of Johne's Disease to develop accurate tests and testing procedures, treatment and control of the disease.

new 6/14/99, revised 9/29/05, renewed 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13

**Trichomoniasis
(CHW-20)**

WHEREAS, evidence indicates that trichomoniasis, a venereal disease in cattle resulting in infertility, abortions, delayed calving, and/or reduced calf crops, has an increasing prevalence in the cattle herds of Texas; and

WHEREAS, trichomoniasis is a disease that requires prevention rather than cure; and

WHEREAS, there is no effective treatment of infected bulls, thus leaving slaughter of such bulls as the only prudent option; and

WHEREAS, this disease has the potential of causing significant economic impact from calving production losses, as well as the possible loss of valuable genetic base of seedstock producers; and

WHEREAS, Texas has implemented regulations to address this disease in Texas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the efforts of the Texas Animal Health Commission to continue to work with the cattle industry to effectively implement the trichomoniasis program and to review this program on an annual basis and make any revisions necessary.

new 06/17/08, revised 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, renewed 9/26/14

**Feral Swine
(CHW-21)**

WHEREAS, feral swine are feral, domestic animals; and

WHEREAS, the feral swine is a depredating animal capable of spreading animal diseases to domestic livestock; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA is opposed to classification of the feral swine as a nongame species; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the Texas Department of Agriculture's Feral Swine Abatement Program, supports funding for this program, and supports the Texas Animal Health Commission's efforts to address disease concerns associated with feral swine.

new 3/31/93, revised 3/27/96, renewed 3/21/05, revised 10/2/09, renewed 9/27/13, revised 9/26/14

**Texas Animal Health Commission - Structure
(CHW-22)**

WHEREAS, the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) diligently works to prevent, control or eradicate diseases important to the cattle industry such as brucellosis, tuberculosis, BSE, tick fever and others; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the TAHC continue its functions to protect the livestock herds of Texas from animal disease in order to reduce the economic burden created by such diseases and to keep markets open for free movement and the costs to the consumer to a minimum; and

WHEREAS, legislative proposals could evolve to merge the TAHC with the Texas Department of Agriculture or other state agency; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the continuation of the TAHC in the status as a free standing state agency charged with the protection of the Texas' livestock industry with continued oversight by a gubernatorial appointed body of commissioners.

new 9/29/05, revised 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, renewed 9/26/14

**Texas Animal Health Commission – Funding
(CHW-23)**

WHEREAS, the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) is primarily funded by public funds appropriated by the Texas Legislature; and

WHEREAS, TSCRA has long expressed concern over the use of industry fees to support the operation of the TAHC; and

WHEREAS, TSCRA has a fundamental belief in small and efficient government agencies that utilize public funds prudently to accomplish objectives; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature expects the TAHC to levy fees for the purpose of generating additional state revenue for the agency; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA strongly urges the Texas Legislature to adequately fund the TAHC so it can effectively fulfill its mission; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA work to ensure that any user fees implemented by the TAHC are fully appropriated back to the TAHC by the Texas Legislature for their intended purpose, do not unfairly burden any sector of the livestock industry, and that any such fees are kept to an absolute minimum.

new 3/31/93, revised 9/29/05, renewed 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, renewed 9/26/14, revised 9/30/16

**Agricultural Bioterrorism
(CHW-24)**

WHEREAS, intentional acts of bioterrorism against U.S. food, water and agriculture are believed by intelligence analysts to pose real and present threats to U.S. agriculture; and

WHEREAS, agents carrying foreign and zoonotic diseases are some of the largest threats of such attacks to the U.S. and Texas cattle industry; and

WHEREAS, the vulnerability of the cattle industry to such attacks is very high, either from intentional or accidental introduction of such diseases; and

WHEREAS, the cost of such attacks both in terms of monetary losses and loss of irreplaceable genetic stocks as well as the cost of recovery would be enormous; and

WHEREAS, Texas is especially vulnerable to such attacks, with the diversity of Texas agriculture, including livestock, crops and processed food , more than 1200 miles of international border, and a high volume of agricultural goods moving through multiple ports; and

WHEREAS, the Texas A&M University System has established expertise in dealing with foreign and zoonotic diseases and places immediate and continuing priority on reducing the threat of disease outbreak and developing new means of coping with diseases in a cost effective and timely manner; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports efforts by the U.S. Congress, Texas Legislature and federal and state agencies, including the Texas A&M University System, to adequately fund, organize, and deploy the necessary resources for research, development, communication, and education to effectively reduce the threat of intentional acts of agricultural bioterrorism, especially in the cattle industry; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the efforts of the Texas Animal Health Commission and USDA to continually evaluate animal import regulations and quarantine and inspection regulations which would decrease disease outbreak potential and better prepare Texas for acts of agricultural bioterrorism.

new 10/12/02, renewed 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, renewed 9/30/16

**Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
(CHW-25)**

WHEREAS, animal agriculture is producing billions of dollars to the economy of the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, a critical shortage of large animal veterinarians in rural Texas has developed; and

WHEREAS, large animal veterinarians are critical to maintaining animal health and allowing free access to intra- and interstate trade; and

WHEREAS, Texas A&M University was developed as a land grant college to support agriculture and is home to one of the leading colleges of veterinary medicine and biomedical sciences in the world; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA requests the president, chancellor, and board of regents of Texas A&M University maintain a production agriculture veterinarian as dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

new 06/17/08, renewed 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13

**Large Animal Veterinarian Shortage
(CHW-26)**

WHEREAS, having the necessary veterinary medical services and infrastructure is essential to assuring the beef industry continues to produce the safest, best beef in the world; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports efforts to assure a sufficient supply of bovine practitioners and the veterinary support systems necessary to enable the industry to produce beef in a safe, efficient and humane manner; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the increased use of veterinarian assistants, veterinary technicians and licensed veterinary paraprofessionals working for and under the direction of accredited licensed veterinarians; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA urges the U.S. Congress, state legislatures, and public universities to make a priority of addressing the growing shortage of food animal veterinary practitioners, especially in the more rural areas of the nation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports loan repayment programs or other programs which would help qualified veterinarians offset a significant portion of the debt incurred in pursuit of their veterinary medicine degrees in return for their service in certain high priority veterinary shortage situations (rural areas).

new 10/12/06, revised 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, renewed 9/25/15

**Cold Pasteurization
(CHW-27)**

WHEREAS, food safety is a high concern to both consumers and producers of beef; and

WHEREAS, cold pasteurization (irradiation) has been proven to be both safe and effective to help ensure the safety of beef; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the continued use of cold pasteurization (irradiation) and additional research of its use to control microbes in and on meat products.

new 4/8/98, renewed 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, renewed 9/30/16

LAW ENFORCEMENT (LAW)

**Video and Satellite Auction Brand Inspection
(LAW-1)**

WHEREAS, TSCRA operates one of the most effective and efficient livestock brand inspection systems in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the inspection system has resulted in the recovery of millions of dollars of livestock and ranch property annually; and

WHEREAS, the inspection system has acted as a deterrent to the theft of these properties; and

WHEREAS, video auction markets have become a substantial marketing agency for the sale of cattle throughout Texas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports a change in the Packers and Stockyards Act, consistent with the spirit and intent of the act, that would authorize the inspection of cattle sold by video and satellite auction marketing organizations at the time of delivery; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA will include in its inspections, cattle or horses in any system which may be authorized by the Act or the State of Texas.

new 3/25/92, renewed 10/2/09, renewed 9/26/14

**Border Security
(LAW-2)**

WHEREAS, the 1,254 miles of Texas-Mexico border is porous and insufficiently secured by the U.S. government which threatens the livelihood of border residents and our nation's domestic security by allowing individuals, drugs and weapons to enter the U.S. illegally; and

WHEREAS, ranchers and landowners along the border are regularly becoming victims of bodily harm, property damage, theft, intimidation and other violence by armed trespassers; and

WHEREAS, many of the illegal aliens apprehended are other than Mexican (OTM), are from numerous other countries, and have connections to global terrorist groups; and

WHEREAS, this illegal activity decreases property value, increases landowner's liability and costs, and leads to an overall loss of liberty; and

WHEREAS, the continued rise in violence along the Texas-Mexico border threatens the security our nation's food supply and overall economy by creating animal health risks and trade barriers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA demands that the U.S. government take immediate actions to gain control of the Texas - Mexico border, especially in remote areas of Texas, and bring safety and security to residents living and working along the border and to citizens throughout the nation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA demands that the U.S. Congress and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) dedicate ample resources to border security efforts by:

1. Maintaining sufficient law enforcement personnel, especially in remote areas of Texas, to properly secure the border and provide them with sufficient authority, equipment and training; and
2. Allocating additional resources to state, county and local law enforcement agencies for border security; and
3. Implementing effective technology and surveillance programs to supply local, state and federal law enforcement officials and local landowners with valuable information related to border control efforts; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports an increase in the number of check stations along the Texas-Mexico border; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports state and federal laws be strengthened to better protect landowners from liability resulting from illegal border activities and, when feasible, reimbursement to landowners for property damages caused by illegal border activities; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA strongly supports the continued inspection of cattle on the Mexican side of the border over the long-term and demands that the U.S. Congress and USDA provide funding and resources for more secure federal and state inspections to occur.

new 9/26/12, revised 9/26/14

Second Amendment (LAW-3)

WHEREAS, the right to keep and bear arms is one of the most fundamental rights of U.S. citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects the right of U.S. citizens to keep and bear arms; and

WHEREAS, the Second Amendment, in conjunction with other federal and state laws, allows U.S. citizens to legally defend themselves and their property; and

WHEREAS, the Second Amendment is continually challenged by anti-gun activists who want to take away the rights and freedoms of U.S. citizens; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA oppose any legislation, regulation, treaty, and/or agreement at the federal, state and/or international levels that would take, weaken, or in any way limit U.S. citizens' rights to keep and bear arms.

new 9/26/12, renewed 9/30/16

Trespass (LAW-4)

WHEREAS, a person commits a criminal offense if the person enters or remains on or in property of another without effective consent and the person had notice that the entry was forbidden or received notice to depart but failed to do so; and

WHEREAS, criminal trespass is a growing problem for landowners due to urbanization and a lack of education on private property rights; and

WHEREAS, trespassing on private property increases liability for private landowners; and

WHEREAS, a landowner may have increased liability as the result of a state or federal peace officer entering upon private property without landowner consent as the result of the peace officer(s) attempt to detect or arrest a violator of state or federal law; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports stronger legal protections for private landowners that better protect landowners from liability due to trespassing or unknown entry onto private property.

new 9/26/12, renewed 9/30/16

Poaching (LAW-5)

WHEREAS, poaching, trespassing to hunt, and shooting from public roadways continues to be a big problem causing danger to landowners, private property and the public; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports tough enforcement of penalties for poaching and road hunting, the Operation Game Thief Program of privately-funded rewards for information leading to the conviction of game poachers, and the prohibition of public hunting in Texas state-owned river beds.

new 4/1/81, revised 1992, renewed 10/2/09, renewed 9/27/13

Immigration Reform (LAW-6)

WHEREAS, the issue of illegal immigration continues to plague the United States; and

WHEREAS, there is a continued need for efficient, effective, and economical guest worker laws and programs that allow immigrants to work in the United States without placing excessive bureaucratic burdens on employers; and

WHEREAS, such laws and programs should achieve the highest level of immigrant compliance and enrollment as possible; and

WHEREAS, TSCRA is vitally interested in the immigration laws and programs of the United States because they affect ranchers and their ability to have a dependable and legal workforce; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of illegal immigrants crossing the border are seeking work and do not want to become U.S. citizens; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports federal immigration laws and programs that are efficient, economical, and able to effectively provide the cattle industry with a legal labor workforce while protecting borders and the nation against problems associated with illegal immigration; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA oppose any federal immigration laws and programs that grant amnesty to immigrants; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that any federal immigration and guest worker laws and programs contain the following:

1. Recognition that the cattle industry is not a seasonal agricultural industry, and it requires an appropriate length of time for immigrant guest workers to stay in the U.S. before they are required to return to their home country for any period of time; and
2. Appropriate touch-back provisions that require immigrant guest workers to return to their home country for a given total length of time during their guest worker status in the U.S., but should allow for flexibility on when the required touch-back time is taken and on the required length of stay of any required touch-backs; and
3. Require a tamper-proof identification for immigrant workers so that employers, following the proper laws and procedures, can make proper identification without fear of enforcement and/or prosecution; and
4. Require any immigrant worker who has committed a felony while in the United States, or has violated a court order for deportation while legally in the United States, to be denied access to U.S. citizenship, temporary visa, and/or guest worker programs; and

5. That the processing of applicants for citizenship filed prior to the implementation of any changes to federal immigration laws and/or programs be accomplished first, after which all other applicants should be processed in a timely manner.

new 10/25/03, revised 3/21/05, revised 10/2/09, revised 6/17/11, revised 9/27/13, renewed 9/26/14

MARKETING AND TRANSPORTATION (MKT)

Support for Beef Quality Assurance Programs (MKT-1)

WHEREAS, TSCRA should take a leading role in the State of Texas to arm producers with the education needed to overcome management-influenced beef quality problems that affect overall demand and to promote pride in producing quality Texas beef; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Beef Quality Producer program receives significant support from the Texas Beef Council and Texas AgriLife Extension Service;

WHEREAS, the Texas Beef Quality Producer program meets national Beef Quality Assurance program standards; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA continues to support a Beef Quality Assurance training and certification program.

new 3/15/00, revised 10/2/09, renewed 9/27/13, renewed 9/26/14

North American Free Trade Agreement (MKT-2)

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress has enacted the North American Free Trade Agreement, also known as NAFTA; and

WHEREAS, Mexico is a leading market for U.S. goods and, in Texas, Mexico is our top international market; and

WHEREAS, NAFTA is intended to improve living standards in Mexico, decrease illegal immigration, stabilize local government and increase the purchase of much needed U.S. exports, including cattle and other Texas agricultural products; and

WHEREAS, NAFTA is intended to make Mexico a better neighbor for animal health and the environment because of the powerful incentive of free trade and, long-term, a better life for Mexico's growing population; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA continue to support NAFTA.

new 9/18/93, revised 10/2/09, renewed 9/27/13

U.S. Beef to U.S. Military Bases (MKT-3)

WHEREAS, some U.S. military bases located in foreign countries are not allowed to import U.S. beef; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports all efforts to deliver U.S. beef to those U.S. military bases.

new 6/15/97, renewed 10/2/09, renewed 9/27/13, renewed 9/25/15

**U.S. Meat Export Federation
(MKT-4)**

WHEREAS, TSCRA recognizes the necessity of increased beef and beef product exports to the well-being of the cattle industry; and

WHEREAS, TSCRA is a charter member of the U.S. Meat Export Federation and strongly supports its efforts in overseas market development and product promotion; and

WHEREAS, Market Access Program (MAP) funds are based on performance and industry investment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA encourages strong financial support from the private sector, the state beef commissions and from the Cattlemen's Beef Board for the USMEF; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA continues its support of MAP funding and support appropriate legislative action to ensure its existence.

new 3/22/95, renewed 10/2/09, renewed 9/27/13, renewed 9/25/15

**Cattlemen's Beef Board
(MKT-5)**

WHEREAS, the Beef Promotion and Research Act as defined in the Beef Promotion and Research Order provides the basis for development of a producer-funded beef promotion and research program aimed at building demand for beef and beef products, both domestically and internationally; and

WHEREAS, TSCRA has a vested interest in the actions of the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board; and

WHEREAS, representatives of the cattle industry who serve on the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board are nominated by producers of their respective states and appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA strongly supports the Act and the Order as written and passed into law, which clearly designates the number of representatives of the Beef Industry Council on the Beef Board Operating Committee; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA calls for the beef checkoff program to be administered as stipulated in the strict guidelines of the Act and the Order as approved through referendum by cattle producers of this nation.

new 3/31/93, revised 10/2/09, renewed 9/27/13

**Country of Origin Labeling
(MKT-6)**

WHEREAS, federal law enacted by passage of the 2002 farm bill mandates beef sold in retail supermarkets must be labeled as to its country of origin; and

WHEREAS, there are no credible consumer surveys or studies that illustrate consumers will pay more for beef that is labeled as to its country of origin; and

WHEREAS, USDA will require that compliance with the law will require the beef industry, including producers, to maintain records on where cattle are born, raised and slaughtered that can be verified by audit trails costing producers billions of dollars each year; and

WHEREAS, compliance costs borne by the retailing and meat processing industries will be transferred to either consumers or back to U.S. producers rather than foreign competitors; and

WHEREAS, food service establishments, the major segment of the United States' food retail system that utilizes imported beef products, is also exempt from the law; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA shall work with Congress to modify current federal law to repeal its mandatory provisions and its misplaced financial burden on U.S. ranchers and establish voluntary guidelines that will facilitate private, market driven efforts to label beef as to its country of origin.

new 3/25/03, revised 10/2/09, renewed 9/27/13, renewed 9/26/14

Dairy Cattle Subsidies (MKT-7)

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress continues to consider legislative proposals addressing the long-term problem of milk surpluses; and

WHEREAS, in the past, these legislative proposals have provided a subsidy to encourage the slaughter of dairy cows in direct competition with unsubsidized beef cattle slaughter; and

WHEREAS, the cost to beef cattle producers as a result of these poorly considered policies can and has run into the millions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA urges the members of the U.S. Congress to oppose any dairy legislation that would adversely impact the beef cattle industry.

new 10/22/83, revised 1992, revised 10/2/09, renewed 9/27/13

“Go Texan” Program (MKT-8)

WHEREAS, Texas has a great mystique in domestic and foreign markets; and

WHEREAS, there are ways to produce a “Texas Branded Beef” product; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA endorse the “Go Texan” beef marketing program.

new 3/31/99, renewed 10/2/09, renewed 9/27/13

Livestock Marketing Reporting (MKT-9)

WHEREAS, cattle producer access to transparent, timely, and comprehensive livestock market reports provides an important information resource; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act was passed to substantially increase the volume of industry sales transactions covered by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) market news reports and thereby encourage competition in the industry; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, Livestock Mandatory Reporting was re-established and revised; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, the Texas Legislature eliminated funding for market reports from 18 livestock markets as well as a hotline recording of livestock, boxed beef, and futures prices; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA endorses the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act and urges the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) and USDA reporting services implement the law; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA urges continuous improvement of livestock market reporting data detail, timeliness, and accuracy; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports funding for the continuation of TDA livestock market and grain reports.

new 7/13/91, revised 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, renewed 9/26/14

**Consumer Confidence
(MKT-10)**

WHEREAS, sound science provides the means to ensure significant food safety methods to protect consumers from risk; and

WHEREAS, other livestock organizations have aligned with anti-beef activist groups and launched publicity actions designed to discredit the safety of beef products that could have ramifications on the U.S. beef industry; and

WHEREAS, the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, and U.S. Meat Export Federation have comprehensive plans to address consumers with a unified industry voice; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA condemns all activities and irresponsible actions that could jeopardize demand for beef in the United States and inhibit our ability to re-open our export markets; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the continued efforts to address consumers with a unified and science-based message, provided such plan does not propose any change in the Beef Promotion and Research Act.

new 6/5/04, revised 10/2/09, renewed 9/27/13, renewed 9/25/15

**Anti-Competitiveness
(MKT-11)**

WHEREAS, the ability of an individual or corporation to freely buy and sell their cattle through all available marketing channels is a key risk management strategy; and

WHEREAS, increased regulation of cattle marketing practices through legislation has the potential to disrupt cattle markets and cause prices to decline; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA is opposed to any government policies relative to livestock ownership which threaten to dictate market conditions or negatively impact market prices.

new 3/22/09, renewed 10/2/09, renewed 9/27/13

**Free Trade
(MKT-12)**

WHEREAS, TSCRA supports the concept of free and fair trading rules in the global marketplace for goods and services; and

WHEREAS, bilateral trade agreements sometimes remove pressure from countries to earnestly negotiate in important multilateral negotiations that can benefit many exporting and importing nations resulting in fairer trade rules for all producers and consumers globally; and

WHEREAS, Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) allows the President of the United States to negotiate trade agreements that Congress can either approve or reject, but not amend; and

WHEREAS, TPA has consistently provided U.S. negotiators with the flexibility to negotiate the best agreements possible in consultation with Congress; and

WHEREAS, exports are the lifeblood of American agriculture and TPA provides a great opportunity to expand agricultural trade; and

WHEREAS, TSCRA believes any health or sanitary restrictions should be substantiated with sound scientific justifications; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA opposes the negotiation of any other bilateral agreement that would be detrimental to U.S. beef producers; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that in lieu of bilateral agreements that can harm the U.S. beef industry, TSCRA favors international trade negotiations that are multilateral, for a more favorable global playing field for all importing and exporting countries alike; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA urges Congress to enable legislation ensuring continued availability of Trade Promotion Authority to the President; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA urges Congress to ratify those completed trade agreements awaiting Congressional action; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that in order to find a solution to the European Union hormone ban dispute and to avoid any further such disputes, TSCRA places high priority on the sanitary and phyto-sanitary provisions of the World Trade Organization.

new 10/2/09, renewed 9/27/13, renewed 9/26/14

Beef Checkoff (MKT-13)

WHEREAS, the national beef checkoff has established a program with the goal of increasing beef demand in the global market by creating a positive marketing environment for beef and beef variety meats through science-based programs in promotion, research and consumer and industry information programs; and

WHEREAS, cattlemen remain concerned about prices, beef demand, competitive meats and adverse publicity damaging to beef's image with American consumers; and

WHEREAS, cattlemen need and are advocating increased beef promotion and product research; and

WHEREAS, the maintenance and expansion of existing markets for beef and beef products are vital to the welfare of beef producers and the general economy of the nation; and

WHEREAS, Texas cattle producers have created the Texas Beef Checkoff to provide state-level promotion, marketing, research and education programs for beef and beef products; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA strongly supports and endorses the national and state beef checkoff programs.

new 10/2/09, revised 9/26/12, revised 9/30/16

Market Access and Exports to Japan (MKT-14)

WHEREAS, Japan is one of the largest markets for United States beef exports; and

WHEREAS, after the discovery of one Canadian-born cow infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) disease in the State of Washington in December of 2003, Japan closed its market to United States beef and still restricts access to a large number of safe United States beef products; and

WHEREAS, for years the United States government has developed and implemented a multilayered system of interlocking safeguards to ensure the safety of American beef, and after the 2003 discovery, the United States implemented further safeguards to ensure beef safety; and

WHEREAS, a 2006 study by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) found that BSE was virtually nonexistent in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the internationally recognized standard-setting body, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), has classified the United States as a controlled risk country for BSE, which means that United States beef is safe for export and consumption; and

WHEREAS, while Japan remains an important ally and trading partner of the United States, this unscientific trade restriction is not consistent with fair trade practices, or with United States treatment of Japanese imports; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA encourages NCBA, USDA, the Administration, and Congress to demand that Japan comply fully with the guidelines of the World Organization for Animal Health and immediately grant increased market access for United States beef and beef products by Japan and immediately allow the importation of United States bone-in and boneless beef of all ages.

new 3/21/10, revised 9/26/14

Ethical and Humane Disposal and Slaughter of Horses (MKT-15)

WHEREAS, it is important to have an ethical and humane means to dispose of horses; and

WHEREAS, TSCRA supports every effort to ensure horses are treated humanely throughout their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, without a means to dispose of horses there will ultimately be detrimental effects to the welfare of horses; and

WHEREAS, unwanted horses are processed into products that are consumed overseas; and

WHEREAS, the value of unwanted horses as a food animal dictates they not be abused, less their value be diminished; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that TSCRA:

1. Oppose legislation, regulations, or legal activities that would hinder efforts to ethically and humanely dispose of horses; and
2. Support legislation, regulations, or legal activities that would allow for the ethical and humane slaughter of horses for human and/or non-human consumption at approved and inspected slaughter facilities.

new 3/21/10, revised 9/26/12, revised 9/27/13

Farm Vehicle Distance Restriction (MKT-16)

WHEREAS, current federal and state motor vehicle laws restrict livestock and farm operators who are operating their farm equipment, not for hire and without a commercial driver's license, for transporting their livestock or farm products in excess of 150 miles; and

WHEREAS, this 150 mile restriction is very impractical, especially in times of drought and other emergency and disaster situations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports a change in federal and state motor vehicle laws to remove this 150 mile restriction.

new 6/18/10, renewed 9/26/14

**Farm/Ranch to Market Roads
(MKT-17)**

WHEREAS, in 1949 the Texas Legislature passed the Colson-Briscoe Act, which created an annual appropriation from the State General Fund for the construction of farm/ranch to market roads; and

WHEREAS, farm/ranch to market roads serve as reliable access routes that allow ranchers to move cattle, feed, equipment, and other supplies in a safe and efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, farm/ranch to market roads are valued by ranchers and other residents and landowners in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, proper and regularly scheduled repair and maintenance of farm/ranch to market roads is needed and is the responsibility of the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT); and

WHEREAS, increased truck traffic from oil and gas activity has caused many farm/ranch to market roads to become dangerous and resulted in poor road surface and base conditions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports an appropriate and reasonable level of funding from the Texas Legislature to properly fund the repair and maintenance of farm/ranch to market roads; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports that any repair and/or maintenance of farm/ranch to market roads be at least to the road surface and base standards as when the farm/ranch to market roads were initially constructed; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA urges the oil and gas industry to make financial contributions to help fund the repair and/or maintenance of farm/ranch to market roads that are being utilized for oil and gas activity.

new 9/27/13

**Truck Weights
(MKT-18)**

WHEREAS, truck transportation is a vital component to the cattle industry; and

WHEREAS, ranchers often truck cattle hundreds of miles to pasture, market, feedyard, or slaughter, which causes great financial hardships due to high fuel costs; and

WHEREAS, having fewer trucks on the road would increase safety, reduce fuel use, and spread the freight cost among more cattle; and

WHEREAS, appropriate overweight permits and overweight penalties exist to ensure proper compliance with federal and state truck weight laws; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports increasing the gross weight for vehicles used on federal, state, and local roadways to over 80,000 pounds; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports adding additional axles to semi-trailers to increase the braking power and put less total weight on each axle making transporting cattle safer and less stressful on federal, state, and local roadways.

new 9/27/13

**Packers and Stockyards Act
(MKT-19)**

WHEREAS, the USDA Packers and Stockyards Program, through oversight activities under the Packers and Stockyard Act of 1921 (P&S Act), serves to protect fair trade practices, financial integrity, and competitive markets for livestock, thereby providing valuable protection to sellers of livestock; and

WHEREAS, the P&S Act provides authority for fees for inspection of brands or marks at stockyards subject to the provisions of the P&S Act; and

WHEREAS, inspection of brands or marks provides a vital investigative resource for TSCRA's market inspection and law enforcement services to all cattle producers in Texas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the activities of the Packers and Stockyards Program, enforcement of the P&S Act, and opposes any reduction in protection available to sellers of livestock; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA strongly supports the P&S Act in order to ensure continued availability of brands and marks inspection for TSCRA law enforcement activities as a public service, and opposes any changes or additions to the P&S Act or other federal law which would limit TSCRA's ability to conduct brands and marks inspection for TSCRA law enforcement activities as a public service.

new 6/18/16

**Cash Settlement of Live Cattle Contracts
(MKT-20)**

WHEREAS, TSCRA members support viable futures exchanges with low market volatility and consistent basis to facilitate effective risk management opportunities for the livestock industry; and

WHEREAS, use of a cash settlement process in a concentrated market structure could expose a Live Cattle cash settlement index to possible manipulation and additional volatility; and

WHEREAS, variable timing, availability, and accuracy of reports of cash market trades used in a Live Cattle cash settlement index could create additional volatility; and

WHEREAS, the Live Cattle delivery process serves to promote convergence of cash and futures prices and produce a more consistent basis; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA oppose any changes by the CME Group that would create a cash settlement process for Live Cattle; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA oppose any contract changes which would adversely affect a cattle producer's ability to deliver on Live Cattle contracts.

new 9/30/2016

**Commodity Futures Markets
(MKT-21)**

WHEREAS, commodity futures markets serve a critical risk management function for livestock owners; and

WHEREAS, the primary purpose of futures and options markets is to perform the functions of price discovery and risk transfer; and

WHEREAS, a healthy price discovery and risk transfer mechanism requires transparency, participation of numerous agents on both the buy and sell side, and equal access to transactions and information for all participants; and

WHEREAS, TSCRA recognizes the traditional role of the CME Group as the primary market venue for the trading of futures and options on Live Cattle and Feeder Cattle contracts; and

WHEREAS, TSCRA will continue to monitor any pending rule or regulatory changes that may impact the ability of the futures markets to provide a meaningful risk management function; and

WHEREAS, contract specifications should match industry needs and facilitate convergence of futures prices with the cash market to ensure a useful risk management function is provided; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the following principles regarding commodity futures markets for livestock:

1. Support enforcement of the law and compliance of the regulations of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), the National Futures Association, and the CME Group to protect the integrity of agricultural futures markets; and
2. Support efforts to safeguard funds held on deposit at brokerage houses on behalf of customer-segregated accounts; and
3. Support the existence of numerous well-designed and efficient physical delivery points to which cattle may be delivered; and
4. Support improvements in the delivery process to embrace new technologies and increase efficiencies; and
5. Support ongoing evaluation and regularly scheduled review of CME Live Cattle and Feeder Cattle contract specifications with the CME Group to ensure contract specifications accurately reflect the characteristics of cattle being hedged against the contract; and
6. Support daily price limits and expandable daily price limits which have a positive effect on the markets' ability to trade efficiently during times of increased volatility; and
7. Support efforts to limit market volatility and the negative impact of algorithmic / high frequency trading.

new 6/17/17

NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE (NRW)

Conservation Reserve Program (NRW-1)

WHEREAS, millions of acres are eligible for enrollment in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in the United States through multi-year contracts with landowners; and

WHEREAS, extension of CRP contracts is common, however, budget restraints continue to have significant impact on continuance of the program and the annual release of total acres under maturing contracts could have significant economic impact on the cattle industry; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports a consistent set of rules for each rebidding and general sign-up and no artificial incentives that would increase livestock production; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that if a contract extension is adopted, the following criteria should be considered:

1. Must be a transition program with long-range commitment.
2. Must be environmentally sound, economically feasible and sustainable.
3. Must preserve private property rights.
4. All contracts must be reevaluated and the most fragile land should be accepted in preference to attain the most benefit per unit of expenditure; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the program continue to allow for haying and grazing during times of drought.

new 3/22/95, revised 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, renewed 9/25/15

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program
(NRW-2)**

WHEREAS, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) has proven to be an effective tool for ranchers implementing sound conservation practices on rangeland; and

WHEREAS, EQIP has provided these practices through technical and financial assistance for rangeland conservation; and

WHEREAS, TSCRA has played a significant role in the implementation of EQIP at the state and local level; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports EQIP as an effective tool for landowners seeking technical and financial assistance for environmental conservation purposes; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA urges Congress to maintain and enhance support for EQIP in order that landowners be able to continue to rely on this program for technical and financial assistance for rangeland conservation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA continue to advocate the needs of rangeland conservation to the state technical advisory committee to ensure that such needs are met by the statewide and local priority process through EQIP; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports a significant allocation of EQIP funds to livestock related applications (rangeland and CAFO); and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the use of EQIP for all sizes, business structures, and income levels of operations in order that the program impacts the greatest acreage of rangeland possible.

new 10/12/06, revised 10/2/09, revised 6/18/10, renewed 9/26/14

**Grazing Lands
(NRW-3)**

WHEREAS, grazing lands are one of the largest land uses in the United States and the world; and

WHEREAS, grazing lands are critical to the cattle industry and communities by providing an important working landscape that benefits livestock, plants, wildlife and water quality and quantity; and

WHEREAS, grazing lands and their benefits largely exist today due to good land stewardship practices of ranchers that own and/or manage these lands and are committed to their healthy future; and

WHEREAS, grazing lands are often located in high population growth areas and are at significant risk of conversion to development and other land uses; and

WHEREAS, research and technology are essential to the wise use and management of grazing lands; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports:

- Private ownership of grazing lands; and
- Federal, state, and private funding, technical expertise and other assistance to continue and to expand beneficial land stewardship practices on privately owned grazing lands; and

- Educational efforts about the ecological and economic benefits of land stewardship on privately owned grazing lands; and
- National, state, and local voluntary conservation efforts, such as the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, that help maintain and enhance working landscapes; and
- Incentives to reduce any burdens to proactive stewardship on privately owned grazing lands.

new 3/21/84, revised 1992, renewed 10/2/09, revised 3/24/13

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
(NRW-4)**

WHEREAS, the strength of our nation and its future largely depends upon its natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the enabling legislation for and mission statement of the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provide for cost-effective technical assistance provided for landowner participation on a voluntary basis; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA urges NRCS to continue its vital role of assisting in the conservation of the nation's soil and water and provide sufficient resources for needed technical assistance on private grazing lands to landowners on a voluntary basis; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA believes that technical assistance provided by the NRCS on private grazing lands be delivered only by those individuals with extensive pasture and range management training; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports recognition by NRCS at the state and federal level that signed contracts between the NRCS and landowners are legally binding agreements, and manuals and/or rules issued after a contract is signed by the NRCS and a landowner has no impact upon the practices implemented by the landowner in accordance with the signed contract; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA favors placement of technical personnel appropriate to needs of the area served at each level of NRCS administration with short, clear lines of authority and responsibility for technology acquisition, transfer, quality control and supervisions, technical program priority and development, and continuous interaction with administrators while providing enhanced capability to draw on best-qualified technical personnel from any level across the nation in temporary task groups to address priority issues from field perspective and in timely fashion.

new 7/17/93, revised 10/2/09, revised 6/18/10, revised 9/26/12, renewed 9/30/16

**Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
(NRW-5)**

WHEREAS, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board has coordinated Texas soil and water conservation programs in an exemplary fashion since 1939; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts are independent, locally-controlled bodies with directors elected by local landowners; and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board is elected on an area basis by the directors of local Soil and Water Conservation Districts and also includes two members appointed by the Governor; and

WHEREAS, the leadership exercised by this state agency has resulted in a voluntary soil and water conservation program unequalled in accomplishments in the United States and the world, accounting for a large portion of our nation's total land committed to conservation programs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and Conservation Districts administration of the state's conservation programs and practices for abating agricultural and silvi-cultural nonpoint source pollution; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports and recognizes the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board as the lead agency in Texas for these programs; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports adequate funding for Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts programs and technical assistance.

new 3/25/92, revised 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, renewed 9/26/14

Dipping Vat Cleanup (NRW-6)

WHEREAS, in 1906 the United States Department of Agriculture imposed a quarantine on livestock from tick-infested areas of the country; and

WHEREAS, the quarantine led to a tick eradication program conducted as a federal-state-local government cooperative program involving criminal penalties for nonparticipation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA encourages the state and federal governments not to hold current landowners responsible for mandates by prior government regulations such as the cost of cleaning up dipping vat sites; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA encourages the state and federal government to provide funds to assist with the cost of cleaning up dipping vat sites when a proper responsible party cannot be located.

new 3/22/95, renewed 10/2/09, revised 6/18/10, renewed 9/26/14

Clean Water Act (NRW-7)

WHEREAS, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, commonly referred to as the Clean Water Act, was enacted by the United States Congress to help protect our water from pollution; and

WHEREAS, various federal agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), are charged with the promulgation of regulations concerning and administration of this law and in such capacity have exceeded the intent of the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, the interpretation and administration of this statute has expanded the regulatory burdens imposed by them to such a degree that private property rights, free enterprise, and resource development are now being seriously threatened and could be an economic and legal burden for landowners; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA urges the United States Congress to amend the Clean Water Act to better balance sound science, economic development, and the importance of private property rights; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA oppose all efforts by federal agencies to expand, misuse, and/or misinterpret their authority under the Clean Water Act.

new 6/13/91, renewed 10/2/09, revised 6/18/10, revised 9/26/14

Industrial Wind Facilities (NRW-8)

WHEREAS, Texas state officials have asserted as public policy that Texas should be the leading wind power-producing state in the United States (including onshore and offshore); and

WHEREAS, no state agency or other Texas public entity has any meaningful authority over the site placement of industrial wind facilities; and

WHEREAS, no state agency has the responsibility or the resources to evaluate the cumulative impact of these industrial wind facilities on the state and local economies, on taxpayers and electric rate payers, on wildlife, the environment, or on private land values of adjacent properties; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports an ongoing legislative and regulatory evaluation of the cumulative effects of industrial wind facilities; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports all industrial wind facilities' strict compliance with all federal and state laws and regulations, including the National Migratory Bird Act, and that they not be eligible for federal and/or state tax exemptions.

new 10/12/06, revised 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13

Invasive Species (NRW-9)

WHEREAS, invasive species have encroached on private lands becoming a nuisance; and

WHEREAS, invasive species have damaged range and pasture lands used for livestock and wildlife forage; and

WHEREAS, invasive species can reduce the amount of ground and surface water available to rural and urban areas; and

WHEREAS, the identification and management of invasive species should be determined on a local, state or regional basis by private landowners and technical experts closest to the situation with Federal assistance only on request; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports best management practices on range and pasture lands that will reduce or eliminate invasive species; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports voluntary local, state, and federal partnerships with private landowners to reduce or eliminate invasive species.

new 10/11/99, renewed 10/2/09, revised 6/18/10, renewed 9/26/14

Vegetation and Brush in Rights-of-Way (NRW-10)

WHEREAS, tall and thick vegetation and brush in highway, farm-to-market, and other rights of way create dangerous fire, safety, and visibility hazards; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA strongly urges entities responsible for mowing and maintaining these rights of way to keep the vegetation and brush managed to eliminate fire, safety, and visibility hazards.

new 4/8/98, revised 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, revised 9/25/15

Groundwater Rights in Pollution Cases (NRW-11)

WHEREAS, there is growing awareness of the negative impacts of pollution on the value of Texas' groundwater supplies; and

WHEREAS, courts and regulatory agencies have not always considered the diminution of value of groundwater and groundwater rights in pollution cases; and

WHEREAS, failure to consider the value of groundwater and groundwater rights has led to carelessness and negligence in the protection of Texas' groundwater by many entities; and

WHEREAS, evidence of groundwater pollution caused by leaking underground pipelines and wells is increasing; and

WHEREAS, aging pipelines and related facilities across the State of Texas greatly increase the likelihood of irreparable harm to the State's valuable groundwater supplies; and

WHEREAS, the most effective way to reduce the likelihood for pollution of the groundwater is to ensure potential polluters are aware they will be held liable for harm to groundwater by regulatory agencies and the courts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports and encourages the Texas Legislature, state regulatory agencies, and the courts to take appropriate and reasonable actions, based on sound science, to prevent groundwater pollution in the State of Texas as soon as possible and to recognize the value of groundwater and groundwater rights in pollution cases.

new 10/29/04, revised 10/2/09, revised 6/18/10, renewed 9/26/14

**State Water Plan in Texas
(NRW-12)**

WHEREAS, water is a major economic driver for the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, there are growing demands for water in Texas due to increasing population growth and consistent drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, these growing demands have the potential to reduce the water available for livestock other agricultural uses, and wildlife unless new sources of water are developed; and

WHEREAS, in 1997 the Texas Legislature enacted comprehensive water legislation titled Senate Bill 1 that put in place a water planning process designed to ensure that the future water needs of all Texans are met; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1 authorized individuals from different interest groups, including agriculture, to serve as members of Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPGs) and prepare regional water plans for their respective regions; and

WHEREAS, these sixteen regional water plans, which collectively make up the State Water Plan, identify the water demands in each region and how each region plans to meet future water supply needs; and

WHEREAS, while many of the strategies in the State Water Plan have access to state funding, there will be a continued need for additional funding for all strategies to be effectively implemented; and

WHEREAS, many of the strategies in the State Water Plan face burdensome federal and state legal and regulatory barriers that can hinder their implementation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports:

1. The current regional water planning process with sufficient local stakeholder representation, input, and control, especially from agricultural and landowner stakeholders; and
2. The development of new water sources through strategies such as brush management, conservation, reservoir construction that respects the property rights of landowners, and cost effective desalination which recognizes brackish groundwater as private property of the landowner; and
3. Private funding and financing methods that will support implementation of the State Water Plan; and
4. Continued public funding and financing methods that will support the implementation of the State Water Plan when necessary, so long as it is approved at the regional and/or local level by those that will pay, dedicated and used for its intended purpose, equitably assessed on those that will benefit, and fairly distributed; and
5. A more equitable legal and regulatory structure that does not impede but encourages and provides incentives for the development of new water sources.

new 3/26/97, revised 10/2/09, revised 9/26/12, revised 9/30/16

**Wetlands' Definition
(NRW-13)**

WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency assert permit jurisdiction over wetlands and isolated water bodies which are not adjacent to historically defined navigable waters; and

WHEREAS, the interpretation of the definition of wetlands and isolated water bodies by the federal government can negatively impact landowners; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA requests that the U.S. Congress formally and explicitly communicate the intended meaning of wetlands and isolated water bodies to all federal agencies and that federal agencies implement and interpret the definition of wetlands and isolated water bodies as the U.S. Congress intends.

new 3/16/88, revised 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, revised 9/25/15

**Prescribed Burning
(NRW-14)**

WHEREAS, prescribed burning is a recognized practice for rangeland management; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to clarify the procedures by which owners and lessees may conduct planned burns when state and other official burn bans have been designated; and

WHEREAS, the Prescribed Burning Board (PBB) is a stand-alone board under the jurisdiction of the Texas Department of Agriculture and made up of volunteer members that have valuable knowledge and expertise; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports keeping the PBB a stand-alone board to avoid adding another layer of bureaucracy and delaying timely decision-making for prescribed burning; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that ranchers continue to have the right to conduct burns on their own property, while assuming all liability; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that ranchers retain the right to hire a certified prescribed burn manager in order to burn and transfer liability; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that ranchers, under a county burn ban:

- 1) be allowed to burn on their own property with the permission of local government, or
- 2) be allowed to burn on their own property after becoming a certified prescribed burn manager, subject to lesser, non-commercial insurance requirements; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports education and training of ranchers to prepare for safe prescribed burning; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the law concerning prescribed burning in the state be clarified for county and state officials; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that a unified effort with other interested parties be made to continue to support and preserve prescribed burning.

new 3/17/08, revised 6/17/08, renewed 10/2/09, renewed 9/27/13

**Planting of Non-Native and Invasive Plant Species
(NRW-15)**

WHEREAS, various government and other non-private landowner entities have planted highway, pipeline, and electric transmission rights-of-way, state parks, oil and gas areas, mines, gravel pits, and other reclaimed areas to non-native and invasive species; and

WHEREAS, in many cases such non-native and invasive species have encroached on private lands becoming a nuisance and have damaged rangelands wildlife and livestock forage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the planting of native species in highway, pipeline, and electric transmission rights-of-way, state parks, oil and gas areas, mines, gravel pits, and other reclaimed areas by government and other non-private landowner entities; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the right of private landowners to select the seed mix to be planted on private lands for reclamation or any other purpose.

new 3/22/2009, renewed 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13

**Inactive Well Plugging
(NRW-16)**

WHEREAS, the State of Texas has allowed the oil and gas industry to avoid plugging tens of thousands of inactive oil and gas wells, and many of these inactive unplugged wells reside on lands owned by members of TSCRA; and

WHEREAS, many inactive wells change operators and/or working interest owners and are allowed to ultimately be owned by successor operators and/or working interest owners who cannot or will not plug the wells, and such wells are then orphaned and left for the State of Texas to plug; and

WHEREAS, such inactive wells pose a threat to groundwater and create an unsafe and unsightly mess on the surface of the land; and

WHEREAS, legislative and regulatory efforts have been made to stop this reckless pattern of allowing thousands of wells to go unplugged for years without recourse to any of their owners or operators; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports legislative efforts to require that all operators and/or working interest owners in the chain of title be held responsible for the timely plugging of inactive oil and gas wells in this State or that a bonding requirement be put in place that would provide a permanent bond for each oil and gas well that would remain in effect for the life of each well; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports efforts for more rigorous enforcement of bonding and plugging requirements for owners of inactive oil and gas wells; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports full appropriation of state funds by the Texas Legislature for their intended use of plugging inactive oil and gas wells.

new 3/22/09, revised 10/2/09, revised 6/18/10, revised 9/26/14

**Conservation on Private Lands
(NRW-17)**

WHEREAS, landowners continue to improve conservation practices on private land which benefits and replenishes natural resources; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports efforts that would improve conservation efforts on private land, including, but not limited to:

1. Increased research in soil health, water, plant, animal, and wildlife science; and

2. More education opportunities for citizens in soil health, water, plant, livestock and wildlife management; and
3. Incentive based, cost-sharing; and
4. Increased technical assistance; and
5. Continued confidentiality of information between landowners and federal and state government, when applicable.

new 3/28/01, renewed 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13

**Surface Water Quality
(NRW-18)**

WHEREAS, ranchers are good stewards of surface water and take pride in making sure it is abundant, safe, and high in quality; and

WHEREAS, TSCRA advocates responsible land use that helps to ensure good surface water quality and provides many educational programs for its members on best management practices; and

WHEREAS, ranchers are potentially subject to severe land use regulation under the federal Clean Water Act; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the establishment and implementation of surface water quality standards, laws, regulations, and rules that have landowner input, are based on sound science, place an emphasis on voluntary management practices, recognize geographical differences in uses and practices, protect water quality, and sustain economic development.

new 6/18/10, revised 9/26/14

**Fence Replacement Cost Share Eligibility
(NRW-19)**

WHEREAS, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) rules arbitrarily limit fence replacement cost share eligibility to fences less than 20 years of age; and

WHEREAS, such 20 year limitation places an unnecessary and undue burden on ranchers who need to rebuild and restock their ranching operations due to natural disasters; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA support federal legislation and rulemaking which would remove the fence age requirement for fence replacement cost share eligibility after a natural disaster.

new 6/17/11, renewed 9/25/15

**Renewable Fuels
(NRW-20)**

WHEREAS, renewable fuels that use feed grains and/or other feedstuffs can put food and fuel in competition with one another and have an impact on price and availability of those feed grains and feedstuffs used for cattle production; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has subsidized the production of renewable fuels and mandated certain production levels in the United States; and

WHEREAS, due to the federal subsidies and production mandates, the grain based ethanol industry in the United States does not operate in a true market-based economy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA oppose federal and state subsidies and production mandates for renewable fuels that use grains and/or other feedstuffs used for human and/or animal consumption.

new 9/26/12, renewed 9/30/16

**Surface and Ground Water Use Exemptions
(NRW-21)**

WHEREAS, surface and ground water are critical to livestock production; and

WHEREAS, livestock producers implement best management practices to responsibly use surface and ground water for their livestock; and

WHEREAS, the amount of surface and ground water for livestock and wildlife use in Texas is mostly exempt from state and/or local laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the right to use surface water for domestic and livestock use in Texas is a superior right and takes priority over all other surface water uses and rights; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA protect and defend current surface and ground water rights and exemptions for domestic and livestock use in state and/or local laws and regulations.

new 9/26/12, renewed 9/30/16

**Transfer of Pesticide Regulations from Texas Department of Agriculture
(NRW-22)**

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) has experience and knowledge of the needs and uses of pesticides in Texas, and the transfer of pesticide regulatory authority away from would be detrimental to agriculture and to the economy of Texas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA is opposed to a transfer of pesticide regulatory authority from the TDA.

new 7/13/91, revised 10/2/09, renewed 9/27/13

**Watermasters
(NRW-23)**

WHEREAS, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) administers surface water rights in Texas, including issuing new and amended surface water rights, certificates of adjudication, and canceling water rights; and

WHEREAS, the TCEQ administers watermaster programs in some areas of Texas to ensure compliance with surface water rights by monitoring stream flows, reservoir levels, and water use; and

WHEREAS, the TCEQ may appoint a watermaster in a river basin or river segment on its own motion or upon receipt of a petition of 25 or more holders of surface water rights in the river basin or segment of a river basin or the Texas Legislature may also establish a watermaster program; and

WHEREAS, the TCEQ collects fees from all surface water right holders within the watermaster's jurisdiction in order to pay for the expenses of the watermaster's operations and duties; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Texas law, domestic and livestock surface water users are exempt from having to obtain a permit from TCEQ and have superior surface water rights to all other surface water right holders; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA oppose the creation of watermaster programs by the Texas Legislature; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA only support the creation of watermaster programs if domestic, livestock, and other surface water right holders in an affected area elect to create a watermaster program by majority vote; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that if a watermaster program is created by majority vote, that it is implemented in accordance with the priority doctrine and that domestic and livestock users retain their surface water permit exemption and be exempt from all fees and regulation associated with a watermaster program.

new 9/27/13

**Texas Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative
(NRW-24)**

WHEREAS, private grazing lands are one of Texas' largest natural resources, comprising approximately 70 percent of the privately owned land in the state; and

WHEREAS, grazing lands are part of the foundation of the ranching industry in Texas, providing forage for livestock, livelihoods for Texas ranchers and private landowners, habitat for diverse wildlife, open space enjoyment, and a primary source of clean water for all Texans; and

WHEREAS, the health, vitality and productivity of private grazing lands are under constant pressure from many sources including energy and transportation infrastructure, recreational uses, and the effects of extreme natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (Texas GLCI) is an organization of ranchers, private landowners, biologists, range management specialists, producer groups and others whose sole purpose is to provide a forum for research, education and promotion of healthy private grazing lands; and

WHEREAS, Texas GLCI maintains a staff of highly trained grazing land management specialists available to provide technical assistance to ranchers and private landowners on a voluntary basis and to promote education related to grazing land health and management issues; and

WHEREAS, Texas GLCI regions throughout the state are guided by ranchers and private landowners who coordinate with Texas GLCI grazing land specialists, state and federal agencies, and producer groups to recommend activities that will benefit ranchers, private landowners, and local communities and help address local and state natural resource concerns; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that TSCRA:

1. Appoint and maintain a rancher and/or private landowner member to sit on the Texas GLCI Executive Committee; and
2. Support the Texas GLCI as a source of technical grazing land assistance to ranchers and private landowners on a voluntary basis and as a means to promote education, research, and other collaborative efforts that encourage the sustainability of private grazing lands; and
3. Encourage private, state and federal funding to maintain GLCI technical expertise and educational and research activities for the benefit of Texas ranchers, private landowners, and all Texans.

new 6/11/14

**Quail Decline
(NRW-25)**

WHEREAS, Texas has experienced a drastic decline in quail populations across the state; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports efforts to address the decline of this species in the State of Texas including the funding and implementation of research.

new 3/15/00, revised 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13

**Public Access on Private Lands
(NRW-26)**

WHEREAS, the concept of mandated public access for hunting on private lands is contrary to the tradition and history of the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the best manager of any resource is the person with a personal, vested interest in it; and

WHEREAS, a strong system of private lands is critical for the habitat, conservation, and economic vitality of wildlife and hunting in Texas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA opposes, under any circumstances, mandated public access on private lands in Texas for the hunting of any native or non-native species; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA urges the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to oppose any regulations that would mandate public access on private lands in Texas.

new 10/8/88, renewed 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13

**Mexican Wolf Reintroduction
(NRW-27)**

WHEREAS, the Mexican wolf is listed on the federal endangered species list; and

WHEREAS, under the Mexican wolf recovery plan, certain guidelines have been established in connection with the identification of suitable release sites for reintroduction of the Mexican wolf; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has determined that no Texas sites satisfy the criteria for reintroduction; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA strongly opposes the re-introduction of the Mexican wolf or any other wolf subspecies in Texas; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the determination of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department that no suitable release sites have been identified or exist in Texas.

new 3/28/90, renewed 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, renewed 9/26/14

**Predator Control Programs
(NRW-28)**

WHEREAS, livestock producers provide a valuable source of food and fiber to consumers; and

WHEREAS, despite the efforts of livestock producers to reduce damage caused by predators, livestock producers continue to suffer significant economic losses each year to livestock and private property as a result of predators; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the adequate funding and development of predator control programs that effectively utilize lethal and non-lethal control measures.

new 3/12/80, revised 1992, renewed 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, renewed 9/26/14

**Endangered Species Act
(NRW-29)**

WHEREAS, in 1973 the United States Congress passed the Endangered Species Act (ESA); and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior (DOI) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) have broad flexibility to administer the ESA and develop ESA regulations; and

WHEREAS, the FWS has reported a species recovery rate of less than 2 percent for total domestic species protected under the ESA; and

WHEREAS, the ESA has become a tool for litigation that costs taxpayers and drains resources away from recovery efforts; and

WHEREAS, the ESA has far reaching implications concerning agricultural practices and private property rights in areas where endangered and/or threatened plant and animal species exist; and

WHEREAS, the interpretation and administration of the ESA often exceeds the intent of the United States Congress and lacks appropriate science and economic impact and constitutional property rights analysis; and

WHEREAS, ESA regulatory burdens imposed by the DOI and FWS can seriously threaten, limit and/or take agricultural practices and private property rights; and

WHEREAS, TSCRA members own and/or manage millions of acres of private land impacted by the ESA; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA urges the U.S. Congress to reform the ESA to better balance comprehensive science, economic development, input from affected stakeholders, and private property rights when determining whether to list, introduce, and/or relocate a threatened or endangered species; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA specifically supports ESA legislative reform which would:

1. Revise the data requirements used by the FWS to make listing decisions to ensure that complete and credible science is used and that data be peer reviewed by qualified and objective scientists; and
2. Provide stronger burden of proof and evidence requirements to be placed on individuals and/or groups petitioning the FWS for a species to be listed as threatened or endangered; and
3. Require the FWS to provide more transparency of all species reviews and listing decisions including more information and outreach to landowners on the ESA process, options available for public comment and action, and a public cost and benefits analysis; and
4. Revise the required timelines for responding to species listing petitions to more accurately reflect the time needed by the FWS to thoroughly respond to species listing petitions; and
5. Clarify that voluntary conservation plans under federal jurisdiction remain voluntary and that they only be developed for species with sufficient scientific information to support a listing; and
6. Reinforce the role of state fish and wildlife agencies as the primary and preferred government entity responsible for managing fish and wildlife resources; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the ability of private landowners to voluntarily participate in non-regulatory incentive programs in order to comply with the ESA and to be eligible for any incentives associated with such programs; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA opposes forced perpetual land takings and easements, sale of land to governmental entities unless voluntary easement agreements cannot be reached, and forced mandatory participation in conservation and management plans; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports stronger legal protections for private landowners that would:

1. Protect the ability for private landowners to participate in voluntary conservation plans and make sure that all legal and regulatory assurances set forth in voluntary conservation plans are guaranteed by federal and state government; and
2. Better protect confidential information of private landowners especially in regards to species presence, data collection, and voluntary program participation; and

3. Provide fair compensation if property rights and/or land is purchased or taken under the ESA.

new 9/30/11, revised 9/26/12, revised 9/30/16

**License and Stamp Revenue
(NRW-30)**

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature authorized the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to issue and assess fees for hunting and fishing licenses in 1975; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature also authorized the issuance and assessment of fees for certain stamps such as the migratory and upland game bird stamps and freshwater and saltwater fishing stamps; and

WHEREAS, funds generated by fees collected from licenses and stamps are required to be deposited into a dedicated state account called the Game, Fish, and Water Safety Account; and

WHEREAS, the funds in the Game, Fish, and Water Safety Account are used by the TPWD for research and management of state fish and wildlife resources and other important uses such as law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature has in recent years chosen to not fully appropriate all the dedicated funds collected in the Game, Fish, and Water Safety Account in accordance with its previously stated statutory purpose; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA encourages the Texas Legislature to appropriate all dedicated funds collected from TPWD license and stamp fees to the TPWD for their intended use and purpose.

new 9/26/12, renewed 9/26/14

**Wildlife Disease Prevention and Control
(NRW-31)**

WHEREAS, certain wildlife diseases can have an impact on native and non-native wildlife species and the cattle industry; and

WHEREAS, some wildlife diseases have the potential to impact the economy by reducing the numbers of native and non-native wildlife species that are available to be harvested by hunters and thus, reducing a potential significant source of income for private landowners; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous federal and state laws and regulations regarding interstate and intrastate breeding, trapping, transporting, and transplanting of native and non-native wildlife species which vary by species, that can increase the risk and speed of transmittal of infectious wildlife diseases without proper oversight; and

WHEREAS, some wildlife diseases can be prevented and/or controlled by using approved pharmaceuticals; and

WHEREAS, certain federal and state agencies, in partnership with private landowners, are primarily responsible for enforcing laws and regulations that help to prevent, mitigate, control, and/or eradicate infectious wildlife diseases; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports reasonable and scientifically based federal and state laws and regulations that help to prevent and control wildlife diseases; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports equal or similar animal health practices and standards as those used in the cattle industry for the breeding, trapping, transporting, and transplanting of native and non-native wildlife species including, but not limited to the use of official visible identification or other official form of permanent identification for disease traceability and proper use of pharmaceuticals when applicable; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports statistically sound infectious wildlife disease surveillance plans for both native and non-native wildlife species that are economically viable and respectful of the property rights of landowners, but that also ensure that the presence of an infectious disease has a high probability of detection; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports equal or similar scientifically sound safety standards and traceability as those used in the cattle industry for the sale of meat from native and non-native wildlife species for human consumption.

new 9/26/12, renewed 9/26/14, revised 9/30/16

Wildlife Management and Right to Hunt (NRW-32)

WHEREAS, private landowners voluntarily manage wildlife and wildlife habitat on tens of millions of acres; and

WHEREAS, native wildlife species have long been recognized in law as a publicly owned resource managed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and private landowners; and

WHEREAS, non-native wildlife species have long been recognized in law as a privately owned and managed resource regulated by the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC); and

WHEREAS, private landowners have a right to responsibly manage wildlife and wildlife habitat on their property in accordance with all federal and state laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, hunting is a legal and valued wildlife management practice; and

WHEREAS, hunting is a significant source of income for some private landowners and can help privately owned land to remain in agricultural and wildlife production; and

WHEREAS, proper wildlife and wildlife habitat management benefits all wildlife species, private landowners, the public, and the economy; and

WHEREAS, the rights of private landowners and the public have traditionally been properly balanced, recognized, and respected in federal and state laws, regulations, and practices; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports laws, regulations, and practices that:

1. Protect the rights of private landowners to responsibly manage and profit from wildlife management efforts and investments on their property; and
2. Continue to recognize that native wildlife species are a publicly owned resource regulated by the TPWD and that non-native wildlife species are a privately owned resource regulated by the TAHC; and
3. Recognize the value provided by private landowners in stewarding all wildlife resources and encourage policies that promote and incentivize wildlife habitat preservation by private landowners; and
4. Protect the right to hunt; and
5. Promote legal, ethical, and socially acceptable hunting and harvest methods both in confined and unconfined areas; and
6. Reflect the best available science-based management and animal health practices as adopted by the TPWD and the TAHC.

new 9/26/12, revised 9/30/16

Beef Sustainability (NRW-33)

WHEREAS, the U.S. beef supply chain continues to make efforts to improve the beef industry for future generations; and

WHEREAS, these improvements protect natural resources, promote economic well-being for the beef industry, and provide both human health benefits and social value; and

WHEREAS, a sustainable U.S. beef industry is one in which the full value chain is able to balance economic viability, environmental stewardship and social responsibility while meeting the growing global demand for beef; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that in order to ensure the beef industry's leadership role in the growing global conversation about the topic of sustainably produced beef, TSCRA supports the following:

1. Defense of the individual rights of cattle producers to make decisions regarding responsible production practices; and
2. Establishment of common ground where sustainability benefits cattle producers and other stakeholders; and
3. Work to promote the positive aspects of sustainably produced beef and recognition of possible limiters of beef demand; and
4. Science-based outcomes and full beef supply chain efforts that are demonstrated through continuous improvement over time; and
5. Sustainability programs that are voluntary, market driven and science-based; and
6. Actions that deliver value and a return on investment; and
7. Alignment with other associations and organizations that fundamentally support beef production.

new 9/30/16

Surface Water Rights (NRW-34)

WHEREAS, in accordance with Texas law, surface water owned by the State of Texas is held in trust for the citizens of the state; and

WHEREAS, the State of Texas grants rights to use this surface water through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ); and

WHEREAS, surface water rights in Texas are based on the Prior Appropriation Doctrine, otherwise known as a first in time-first in right system, and are subject to restrictions in time of drought based on the priority date of each water right; and

WHEREAS, surface water rights must be put to a beneficial use, such as agricultural irrigation, municipal, or industrial use, and may be amended for a different type of use, transferred or sold to a different owner, and/or canceled for non-use; and

WHEREAS, priority of use is determined by the date of the water right, not the type of use; and

WHEREAS, surface water is vital for agricultural irrigation use in Texas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the Prior Appropriation Doctrine, otherwise known as first in time-first in right, surface water right system in Texas; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA oppose legislative and regulatory changes to this system that would negatively affect agricultural producers; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the use of sound science and reasonable enforcement by the TCEQ to ensure all surface water right holders are in compliance with their surface water rights; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the protection of surface water right holders from any efforts or initiatives that would negatively affect surface water flow and remove or diminish the availability of surface water regulated by the TCEQ.

new 9/30/16

**Groundwater Conservation Districts
(NRW-35)**

WHEREAS, according to state law, groundwater conservation districts (GCDs) may be created in order to provide for the conservation, preservation, protection, recharge, and prevention of waste of groundwater and to control subsidence consistent with the objectives of the Texas Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Texas law states that GCDs are the state's preferred method of groundwater management in order to protect property rights and balance the conservation and development of groundwater to meet the needs of the state; and

WHEREAS, Texas law requires that GCDs use the best available science in the conservation and development of groundwater and respect landowners' ownership of groundwater through fair and impartial management plans and rules developed, adopted, and implemented; and

WHEREAS, GCDs may be created in single or multiple counties and may be created by the Texas Legislature or by petition to the state and can be funded by either property tax or fees; and

WHEREAS, GCDs over the same groundwater reservoir or subdivision of a groundwater reservoir, and in the same groundwater management area, are required by state law to frequently joint plan and develop desired future conditions (DFCs) for those groundwater reservoirs or subdivision of groundwater reservoirs every five years; and

WHEREAS, the DFCs are submitted to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) who then establishes the modeled available groundwater (MAG) for each groundwater management area; and

WHEREAS, GCDs are required by state law to manage the groundwater in their area in accordance with the DFC and MAG for the groundwater reservoir or subdivision of the groundwater reservoir in that area; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the local management of groundwater by GCDs under the following conditions:

1. Creation and continuation of GCDs by a vote of local landowners with an ownership interest in the groundwater in the jurisdiction of the GCD; and
2. Management of GCDs by locally elected board members; and
3. Obligation by GCDs to recognize the ownership and fair share constitutional property rights that landowners have in groundwater, regardless of aquifer and/or aquifer quality, in all GCD management plans, rules, science, and actions; and
4. Support by GCDs of the continued adequate permit and regulatory exemption for domestic and livestock wells; and
5. Fair and impartial GCD rules that include an efficient permitting process; and
6. Impartial attorney fees if GCD rules and/or actions are legally challenged; and
7. Efficient budgeting and use of funds by GCDs; and be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the use of best available science, joint planning, consistent rule making, and accountability to landowners by GCDs over the same groundwater reservoir or subdivision of a groundwater reservoir on a frequent basis; and be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports more descriptive reports or other means by GCDs to technically and scientifically describe differences in GCD rules for GCDs over the same groundwater reservoir or subdivision of a groundwater reservoir and an action plan to resolve those differences on a frequent basis; and be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports thorough landowner input and involvement in the development of DFCs and other management and/or regulatory strategies and the ability for a landowner to adequately and legally appeal or challenge a DFC or other management and/or regulatory strategies to a state agency and/or court; and be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the appropriate level of state oversight including the scientific based development of groundwater reservoirs or subdivision of groundwater reservoirs, and the technical, scientific, and regulatory review of GCD management plans, rules, applicable science, and other areas as necessary.

new 3/31/17

PROPERTY RIGHTS AND TAX (PRT)

Banking Regulations (PRT-1)

WHEREAS, credit availability is crucial to agricultural production on account of drought, fluctuating prices and other economic conditions; and

WHEREAS, credit availability has been severely restricted, in part because of tightened bank regulation and loan examination by the Comptroller of the Currency, and this restricts the flexibility of community banks to consider character, equity and performance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA requests that the Comptroller of the Currency change its bank regulation and loan examination policies to allow community bankers increased flexibility to consider character, equity and performance rather than merely cash flow.

new 6/15/96, revised 10/2/09, renewed 9/27/13, renewed 9/25/15

Farm Credit System (PRT-2)

WHEREAS, TSCRA believes that the preservation of the Farm Credit System is essential to the long-term, best interests of our nation's farmers, ranchers and agricultural cooperatives; and

WHEREAS, farmers, ranchers and cooperatives are better served by a system which puts greater emphasis on local values, needs of the individual borrower, and programs and options that will assist borrowers at the local level; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports Farm Credit System legislation that:

1. Guarantees that stockholder-owners will continue to control the Farm Credit System; and
2. Requires that the System will continue to provide farmers and ranchers with a sound, adequate and dependable source of agricultural credit at reasonable rates; and
3. Continues to provide a meaningful program of loan restructuring; and
4. Protects borrower stock to the maximum extent possible.

new 3/18/87, revised 1992, revised 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13

Federal Land Privatization (PRT-3)

WHEREAS, the federal government's land holdings comprise about one-third of the land mass of the United States and the cost of managing these lands exceeds the revenues generated from them; and

WHEREAS, a business suffering cash flow problems not only should reduce spending, but should also redeploy its assets; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA requests the U.S. Congress privatize federal agricultural lands thereby increasing the productivity of these lands and economic activity, and to use the proceeds from these lands to reduce the federal debt.

new 3/22/95, renewed 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, renewed 9/25/15

**Merit Election of Appellate Judges
(PRT-4)**

WHEREAS, the people of the State of Texas deserve the most highly qualified and independent judges available for service on the appellate bench; and

WHEREAS, the present system of selecting appellate judges by contested, partisan, political campaigns compels judges to be politicians first and professional jurists only secondarily; and

WHEREAS, the outrageous cost of financing campaigns to adequately inform voters of a judge's qualifications and record leads to the appearance of impropriety and lack of impartiality; and

WHEREAS, most voters in Texas, including many lawyers, do not know the qualifications, or even the names, of most candidates for the Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals, and the Courts of Appeals; and

WHEREAS, since many laws that affect ranchers and landowners have originated in the judicial system, it is in the best interests of the ranchers and landowners of the State of Texas, and, moreover, all the citizens of the State of Texas, that the process for selecting the appellate judiciary be reformed; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports merit election of appellate judges that includes the following principles:

- The process should be based on merit and judicial qualifications; and
- Initial nominations should be broad-based, nonpartisan, and must involve as much public participation and input as possible; and
- Final nominations should be made by the Governor from a list of candidates resulting from the public process; and
- Nominees would be confirmed by voters in an election in the specific Court of Appeal jurisdiction; and
- Judges would be retained or rejected by voters in an election in the specific Court of Appeal jurisdiction.

new 6/4/88, renewed 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, renewed 9/25/15

**Federal Control Over Privately-Owned Lands
(PRT-5)**

WHEREAS, persistent and ever-intensifying efforts have been made by the federal government to extend control over privately-owned lands and associated property rights, including groundwater and surface water, in the United States; and

WHEREAS, such federal regulation is often attempted without legislative or judicial mandate; and

WHEREAS, efforts to establish such controls continue unabated and frequently by an arcane and covert method which makes response in a timely and effective manner by concerned landowners and other citizens difficult or impossible; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports efforts that would prevent such incursions into the private sector by the federal government without specific authorization by the U.S. Congress; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that any such federal action be widely publicized throughout the nation and that proper hearings for the public be held before any Congressional or regulatory agency action is taken so that concerned landowners and other citizens have adequate time to be informed, develop responses and be represented at any such hearings.

new 6/8/82, revised 1992, revised 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, revised 9/26/14

**Military Aviation Training
(PRT-6)**

WHEREAS, there is ongoing training by the United States military of aviation personnel for combat readiness; and

WHEREAS, there is an ongoing tension between this training and the rights of property owners whose land is impacted by these operations; and

WHEREAS, there needs to be adequate safeguards established to prevent the valid needs of national defense from unnecessarily impacting the safety, health, and environmental quality of private land, their owners, their employees, their stock and the native wildlife; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, TSCRA supports the following principles be observed in planning and scheduling military aviation training missions:

1. Low-level operations should be scheduled over federally owned lands rather than private property; and
2. All military aircraft operating over private lands should comply with FAA regulations for commercial aircraft.

new 7/29/98, renewed 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13

**Safeguarding Private Property Rights
(PRT-7)**

WHEREAS, federal and state government can intrude on private property rights; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports federal and state efforts to enact safeguards to protect private property rights against the intrusion of federal and state government and require an economic assessment of any federal and/or state legislation or regulation, prior to its enactment and/or enforcement.

new 3/22/95, renewed 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, renewed 9/30/16

**Eminent Domain Fairness
(PRT-8)**

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the exercise of eminent domain powers is a valid governmental function; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that there have been abuses by governmental and private entities possessing eminent domain powers; and

WHEREAS, the exercise of eminent domain should be appropriately limited and subject to the strict scrutiny of Texas courts; and

WHEREAS, actions to compel the taking of private property under law should be transparent and subject to review; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that property owners be fully compensated and treated with fairness when forced to relinquish property rights; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports legislation to amend the Texas Constitution and other laws to ensure fair treatment of property owners by requiring condemnors to:

1. Provide the landowner with the condemnor's (a) statement or certificate evidencing its right to exercise eminent domain, (b) resolution authorizing the taking of the property, and (c) letter to the Texas Comptroller registering the right of eminent domain; and
2. Provide advance written notice and complete information to the landowner regarding the project and the rights of the landowner prior to any negotiations; and

3. Negotiate in good faith and make a good faith offer in an amount designed to induce the voluntary transfer of property rights; and
4. Provide the landowner, at the time of the original offer, with an estimate of reasonable attorneys' fees required to evaluate the offer and proposed taking and make an additional offer to pay this amount in a final settlement; and
5. Furnish to the landowner all appraisals and the form of easement agreement in a reasonable time frame so that the landowner has adequate time for review prior to any court proceedings; and
6. Include the terms of the easement in the legal adjudication of the condemnation, and include in those terms a provision that landowners' remedies for any breach by condemnor, in addition to damages, shall include injunctive relief; and
7. Require the specific proposed use of the easement, including infrastructure specifications and products to be transmitted, to be identified in the terms of the easement agreement, with the provision that the condemnor may not deviate from or expand the proposed use without an amendment to the easement to include the changed use and additional compensation to landowner as mutually agreed upon; and
8. Provide compensation for all losses suffered by the landowner, including the appraised fair market value of the property taken, damage to the remainder, cost to cure, and diminution of access; and
9. Provide compensation to the landowner of all costs and expenses, including attorney's fees, when the condemnor misuses the legal process or unnecessarily threatens the interests of landowners; and
10. Provide compensation to the landowner of all costs and expenses, including appraisal and attorney's fees, when the award by the special commissioners or the trial court is greater than the condemnor's original offer; and
11. Provide written notice to the landowner of its option to reacquire the condemned property, or property conveyed in lieu of condemnation, and all associated property rights, including mineral and groundwater rights, for the price paid by the condemnor, if the original project causing the condemnation does not progress or is not completed within a reasonable time; and
12. Provide advance written notice to the landowner of any intent to survey or access the property and secure written consent from the landowner before entering the property; and
13. Provide the landowner with an indemnity, proof of insurance, or written assurance that any damages occasioned by the survey or other activities, including construction, on the property will be the responsibility of the condemnor; and
14. Assume full responsibility for all activities of the condemnor and any contractors, including reasonable measures to monitor all gates, cattle guards, and fences securing livestock, and repair or replace any such gates, cattle guards, and/or fences that are damaged; and
15. Prohibit access beyond the proposed and final condemnation area for unauthorized purposes; and
16. Reserve to the landowner all rights to groundwater and minerals, unless the taking is specifically designated for the taking of groundwater pursuant to Texas law; and
17. Limit the width of any temporary or permanent easement to the minimum essential for the proposed project, restore any surface area and vegetation, and take steps to prevent and/or eliminate the invasion of noxious plants; and
18. Pursue alignments along existing right of ways of other utilities and along property boundaries to minimize damages to the landowner; and
19. Adhere to objective routing standards, in the case of pipelines, similar to those in place at the PUC for power lines, and further acquire approval from the RRC for the proposed routing through a contested case hearing process; and

20. Deposit the full award amount with the trial court prior to any appeal of a final judgment.

new 3/16/88, revised 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, revised 9/26/14, revised 9/25/15

**State of Texas Minerals
(PRT-9)**

WHEREAS, landowners who own land under which the State of Texas holds mineral rights have had an excellent record of acting as an agent for the State of Texas in the leasing of those minerals for oil and gas production; and

WHEREAS, the State of Texas has policy regarding surface owners' role in the leasing of oil and gas owned by the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the State of Texas does not have similar provisions or policies for the leasing of many other types of non-surface valuable minerals such as lignite, uranium, or metals sometimes described as "hard" minerals; and

WHEREAS, the practices now in place for the leasing of said "hard" minerals is complicated, unsatisfactory, and does not reflect the interests of the landowner; and

WHEREAS, there have been legislative efforts to grant the State of Texas eminent domain authority for lands over which they own mineral rights which would be very detrimental to surface owners' property rights; and

WHEREAS, the State of Texas as a mineral owner has a legal right to reasonably use groundwater for the production of oil and gas rights that they own, however the rights of the State of Texas to use this groundwater are limited and do not amount to legal ownership, which remains with the surface owner; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA urges the State of Texas to develop a leasing policy for non-surface "hard" minerals which would follow the successful pattern of the oil and gas leasing procedures on these lands; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA opposes eminent domain authority for the State of Texas for lands and the related surface estate, including groundwater, over which they own mineral rights; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA opposes State of Texas control over the production and/or sale of groundwater for lands over which they own mineral rights and supports surface owner compensation for any production of groundwater needed by the State of Texas for oil and gas production.

new 3/20/85, revised 1992, renewed 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13

**Dynamic Scoring for Federal Fiscal Policy
(PRT-10)**

WHEREAS, dynamic scoring predicts the impact of federal fiscal policy changes by forecasting the effects of economic reactions to proposed policy changes; and

WHEREAS, when feasible, dynamic scoring yields a more accurate prediction of a policy's impact on the U.S. fiscal balance and economic output; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA urges that all proposed fiscal policy by the U.S. Congress and federal agencies use dynamic scoring to accurately predict the economic effects of the proposed policy.

new 3/27/96, renewed 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, renewed 9/25/15

**Estate Tax Repeal
(PRT-11)**

WHEREAS, the federal estate tax is a tremendous and unfair burden on family ranching operations and other family-run businesses, causing the dissolution of many of these operations, or the forced sale or mortgaging of essential assets; and

WHEREAS, TSCRA has been a very strong opponent of the estate tax and has been on record for the repeal of the estate tax for many years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA unequivocally supports, first and foremost, the full and final repeal of the federal estate tax; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that until such time as the estate tax is fully and finally repealed, TSCRA supports the passage of estate and gift tax legislation or other measures which will eliminate or significantly reduce the burden of estate and gift taxes on family ranching operations; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA strongly opposes any proposal to increase the estate or gift tax liability of family ranching operations.

new 3/28/01, revised 10/2/09, renewed 9/27/13

**Income Tax and Social Security Withholding
(PRT-12)**

WHEREAS, the requirement for withholding of federal income tax and social security tax from employees earning \$150 or more per year is a burden to ranchers employing occasional day labor and results in employers most often absorbing the employee's share of the tax; and

WHEREAS, withholding on such small sums does not return significant revenue to the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress amended employment tax laws for domestic labor for similar reasons; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA urges the U.S. Congress to raise the withholding threshold to at least the amount allowed for domestic labor.

new 3/15/00, renewed 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13

**State Income Tax in Texas
(PRT-13)**

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature continually looks for ways to fund state agencies and programs and the demand for public funding in Texas is limitless; and

WHEREAS, a Texas Constitutional amendment that instated a state income tax could be enacted only with voter approval rather than by the Texas Legislature alone; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA opposes the adoption of a state income tax in Texas and strongly urges the Texas Legislature to resist new and additional spending which might require increased taxes.

new 7/17/93, revised 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13

**Property Tax in Texas
(PRT-14)**

WHEREAS, the property tax burden on the residents of the State of Texas is increasing and is especially burdensome to landowners in Texas; and

WHEREAS, open space valuation, otherwise known as 1-d-1 appraisal after Article 8, Section 1-d-1 of the Texas Constitution, values land based on the land's capacity to produce crops, livestock, or timber; and

WHEREAS, open space valuation for property taxes reduces the property tax burden on agricultural producers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA strongly supports the continuation of open space land valuation for qualified agricultural producers and overall property tax relief for landowners in Texas; and be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA opposes the rollback tax; and be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA urges that any proposed increase in the effective tax rate by state and/or local government be subject to public hearings and a majority vote of affected taxpayers.

new 3/26/97, renewed 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, renewed 9/26/14, revised 9/30/16

**Tax Systems
(PRT-15)**

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports state and federal tax systems which promote:

- Economic growth through incentives to work, save and invest; and
- Fairness for all; and
- Simplicity so everyone can understand it; and
- Neutrality so people, not government, can make choices; and
- Transparency so citizens know the cost of government; and
- Stability so people can plan for their futures; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports changes in tax systems only if they replace current methods and not if they are in addition to existing systems of taxation.

new 3/27/96, renewed 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13

**Tax Deductibility of Fence Replacement Costs
(PRT-16)**

WHEREAS, natural disasters can destroy livestock, productive grazing lands, and ranch facilities, including fences; and

WHEREAS, current Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rules do not allow fence replacement costs to be fully expensed and deducted in the year of replacement, except on a restricted basis; and

WHEREAS, this limitation places an unnecessary and undue burden on ranchers who have been devastated by natural disasters and who need to rebuild and restock their ranching operations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association support federal legislation and rulemaking which would allow costs of replacing fences, which have been destroyed by natural disasters, to be fully tax deductible in the year such costs are incurred.

new 6/17/11, renewed 9/25/15

**County and Municipal Regulation
(PRT-17)**

WHEREAS, the population of Texas continues to increase at a rapid pace and has generated many pressures on the private property rights of landowners; and

WHEREAS, this population growth has also created new challenges for local governments such as counties and municipalities; and

WHEREAS, many counties desire to expand their regulatory authority in unincorporated areas in order to control land use and groundwater; and

WHEREAS, many municipalities desire to expand their regulatory authority through forced annexation, expansion of extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) boundaries and more restrictive land use regulation; and

WHEREAS, landowners with property subject to forced annexation, ETJ expansion or more restrictive land use regulation are often faced with expensive legal battles in order to protect their property rights; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA oppose legislative and/or regulatory efforts by counties to gain more regulatory authority in unincorporated areas; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA oppose legislative and/or regulatory efforts by municipalities to gain more land through forced annexation and/or ETJ expansion.

new 9/26/12, renewed 9/26/14, revised 9/30/16

**Conservation Easements
(PRT-18)**

WHEREAS, some conservation easements placed on agricultural land can greatly restrict agricultural use, devalue property, and threaten the economy of fragile rural communities; and

WHEREAS, TSCRA strongly supports the property rights of individual landowners, including their rights to operate and manage and/or sell and dispose of their property according to their individual needs and desires; and

WHEREAS, conservation easements are being increasingly utilized as a method of preserving current land usage patterns, providing estate tax relief, and providing for tax deductions and other consideration to be received by landowners; and

WHEREAS, TSCRA was a founding member of the Texas Agricultural Land Trust (TALT) to provide an agricultural based and led entity to assist landowners interested in voluntary conservation easements; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA does not oppose the rights of informed private landowners to voluntarily utilize perpetual or term conservation easements for their own benefit, but does oppose:

- The use of tax and environmental policies by government that encourage use of conservation easements which restrict agricultural use; and
- The use of eminent domain for the procurement of conservation easements; and
- Conservation easements that will result in a change in current land use that has significant deleterious third-party economic and financial effects in the local community or region where the proposed easement is located.

new 3/22/95, revised 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, revised 9/30/16

**Groundwater Rights and Ownership
(PRT-19)**

WHEREAS, ownership of all groundwater as real property fosters efficient use, conservation, and stewardship of a valuable resource; and

WHEREAS, a system of all groundwater regulation and management currently exists in Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature and courts have continually recognized the ownership of all groundwater by the landowner as real property; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA urges the Texas Legislature and courts to continue to recognize the ownership of all groundwater by landowners as real property; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports a regulatory and management system that recognizes this fundamental property right; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports a legal and regulatory system that does not discriminate or prioritize the rights of groundwater owners based on type of groundwater use.

new 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, revised 9/26/14, revised 9/25/15

**General Land Office Definition of Minerals
(PRT-20)**

WHEREAS, the General Land Office (GLO) has by rule defined “minerals” for purposes of the State of Texas mineral lands to include common surface substances such as sand, gravel, caliche and dirt; and

WHEREAS, these surface like substances are not within the common or historic interpretations of the State of Texas mineral reservations from these lands; and

WHEREAS, the leasing, production or access to these surface materials on state mineral lands will cause significant harm to the property interests of the surface owners to these tracts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the repeal or amendment of the GLO definition of minerals to exclude surface like materials; and be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports legislation to appropriately define minerals for purposes of the State’s reservations to adequately protect the historic rights of the surface owners.

new 9/27/13

**Texas Central Railway
(PRT-21)**

WHEREAS, Texas Central Railway (TCR) is a proposed project to build a high-speed passenger rail line between the cities of Dallas and Houston; and

WHEREAS, the TCR is expected to require over 3,000 acres of right-of-way for the rail line and related infrastructure that will impact the private property of landowners in 11 counties; and

WHEREAS, while it is unclear whether or not TCR has the power of eminent domain, TCR plans to attempt to use this power to gain the land necessary to construct the project; and

WHEREAS, while this project is largely funded by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation and other privately funded investors and does not propose to use any federal or state funds, the long-term financial security and stability of the project remains uncertain and could eventually impact Texas taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, while the State of Texas is considering various transportation options to address a potential mobility crisis, TCR will not substantially help meet these needs, as it would only transport passengers from Dallas to Houston with no stops and still require additional transportation to and from rail stations; and

WHEREAS, rural communities and landowners will have no access to the line and receive no benefits of having the TCR in their area, property values in proximity to the rail line will be negatively impacted, and TCR will adversely affect the ability of ranchers to graze and move cattle, transport equipment, and effectively and efficiently use their property; and

WHEREAS, while TCR does not currently have plans to extend the project to cities outside of Dallas and Houston, this project does create the foundation for expansion into other cities and could negatively impact other landowners in the future; and

WHEREAS, the potential statewide implication of this unique project and set of factors warrants the involvement of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA support legislative and regulatory efforts that limit the authority of high-speed passenger rail lines to use the power of eminent domain; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA oppose the use of federal and state funding for the planning, acquisition of right of way, construction, and operation of high-speed passenger rail lines.

new 6/27/15

Workers' Compensation (PRT-22)

WHEREAS, the current method of determining Texas workers' compensation insurance premiums is computed on the basis of remuneration paid by the insured for services of employees; and

WHEREAS, Rule V.B.2.h. and i. of the Texas Workers' Compensation and Employers' Liability Manual includes the value of housing as compensation for premium computation purposes; and

WHEREAS, ranch employees are required to live in ranch dwellings as a condition of their employment, and as such, is not considered as compensation for any other known purpose; and

WHEREAS, determining the "value" of ranch-provided housing is subjective at best and no means for an accurate determination; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA requests that the Texas Department of Insurance exempt the "value" of ranch-provided housing from premium computations.

new 3/27/96, renewed 10/2/09, renewed 9/27/13

Energy Exploration and Production Surface Damage and Notice (PRT-23)

WHEREAS, Texas is one of the leading energy producing states in the United States and this production is vital to the state and national economies; and

WHEREAS, in Texas the mineral estate is dominant to the surface estate and the ownership of these two estates has become increasingly divided; and

WHEREAS, energy exploration and production activities can significantly disturb the surface of private lands and disrupt agriculture production, water resources and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, improper surface use by energy operators can lead to dangerous environmental conditions and degradation of valuable grazing land, riparian areas, wildlife habitat, water resources, and other natural resources; and

WHEREAS, surface estate owners are often left with disturbed and erodible land, unsafe inactive energy exploration and production equipment, polluted water, and unwanted waste material long after energy exploration and production ceases; and

WHEREAS, Texas is the only major energy producing state without comprehensive and reasonable surface damage laws that help strike a balance between the goals of energy exploration and production activities and surface protection; and

WHEREAS, energy exploration and production in states that have adopted reasonable and comprehensive surface damage laws has not been harmed or diminished and such laws have also reduced conflict and litigation between surface and mineral owners; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA continues to support energy exploration and production in Texas as well as the enactment and enforcement of reasonable and comprehensive laws to better protect the surface of Texas lands from unnecessary damage resulting from energy exploration and production activity; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA also supports:

1. The strict enforcement of all federal and state statutes and regulations relating to energy exploration and production activities, including but not limited to surface damages and remediation, as well as adequate appropriations for state and federal regulatory agencies responsible for the enforcement of such statutes and regulations; and
2. The use of written, mutually agreed upon surface use agreements for all activities related to energy exploration and production; and
3. Reasonable compensation from energy operators to surface owners for surface damages and rigorous bonding requirements for energy operators to assure the payment of surface damages, the removal and clean-up of inactive equipment and materials, including electrical lines, production equipment and pipelines, and the remediation of unsafe environmental conditions; and
4. Efforts to require increased communication and written agreements between surface owners and energy operators prior to the commencement of exploration and production activity, including adequate advance written notice prior to entry; and
5. The use by energy operators of landowner approved habitat management and conservation practices to assist in mitigating surface damages of energy exploration and production activities.

new 6/18/16, revised 9/30/16

Section 1031 Exchange (PRT-24)

WHEREAS, a 1031 exchange is a provision within the Internal Revenue Code that allows a tax-free exchange of real estate held for trade, investment, or business to be exchanged for real estate held for trade, investment, or business; and

WHEREAS, a 1031 exchange provides for deferred taxation on profits at the time of the exchange, other than cash received or net debt relief; and

WHEREAS, the existence of the 1031 exchange allows investments in real estate to continue to grow tax deferred; and

WHEREAS, urban growth forces relocation of farms and ranches; and

WHEREAS, property owners find the 1031 exchange beneficial to their business and investment strategies and estate planning; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the continuation of Section 1031 of the Internal Revenue Code.

new 6/17/17