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**LONG TERM PURPOSES AND POLICY PROGRAM OF
SOUTH DAKOTA FARMERS UNION**

2018 PROGRAM AND POLICY STATEMENT OF THE
SOUTH DAKOTA FARMERS UNION AS ADOPTED BY THE DELEGATES AT THE
SOUTH DAKOTA FARMERS UNION CONVENTION
NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 1, 2017

I. MISSION

Uniting farmers, ranchers, and communities
to strengthen South Dakota.

II. AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

A. Commodities

1. Commodity Research and Promotion Programs

a. Checkoff Programs

i. We will support research and promotion programs financed by deductions from the proceeds of sales by producers of agriculture commodities, if the following criteria are met:

A. That disbursement of funds collected is controlled by boards of all producers elected by the producers assessed.

B. The operations of the program are controlled by those producers' boards.

C. The programs are voluntary at the point of sale.

D. At least 75 percent of all collected checkoff dollars each year are spent.

b. National Beef Checkoff

i. We believe in beef checkoff reform.

ii. We urge National Farmers Union (NFU) to act as a contracting agent of the National Beef Checkoff whenever possible.

iii. Imports should be excluded from the checkoff collection and U.S. Beef Checkoff dollars should be used to promote U.S. beef only

iv. We urge complete separation between the beef checkoff and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA).

c. South Dakota Beef Industry Council (SDBIC)

i. We support at least three representatives from South Dakota Farmers Union (SDFU) on SDBIC.

ii. We urge the representation of the dairy cattle industry.

2. Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)

The rights of both GMO and non-GMO producers should be respected as appropriate regulatory agencies continue to research and evaluate these concerns, including but not limited to required consumer labeling for goods made from or containing GMOs.

3. Marketing

a. We urge that appropriate steps be taken to establish federal protections for all agricultural commodities.

b. We support federal appropriations for grants-in-aid to state-operated programs of seed and fertilizer inspection, plant and livestock, pest disease eradication and control, forest fire prevention, market news and warehouse licensing and other farmer and consumer protective and marketing services including those carried out by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as well as by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

c. We also demand that the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) fully enforce existing laws, rules, regulations and the CFTC deny any request for an increase

1 in the number of positions that may be held
2 by any individual trader.

3

4 **4. Grain**

5 a. Bonding

6 i. The cost of elevator bonding has
7 created recurring problems for farmers and
8 their cooperatives during recent years. We
9 urge continued monitoring of bonding costs
10 and a review of possible alternatives.

11 ii. We support a study of bonding
12 requirements or other producer protection
13 methods be undertaken by the South Dakota
14 Public Utilities Commission (PUC) because
15 of growing concerns that some elevators are
16 not bonded sufficiently to protect their
17 customers.

18 b. Inspection

19 i. We urge Congress to review the
20 adequacy of the grain inspection system
21 with emphasis on prohibiting conflicts of
22 interest between inspectors and grain
23 traders.

24 ii. We urge Congress to review the
25 adequacy of the grain inspection system
26 with emphasis on providing penalties for
27 noncompliance including revocation of
28 license, suspension of operations, fines
29 and/or imprisonment. The export of grain
30 handling license of any firm found guilty of
31 adulteration of grain moving in international
32 trade should be revoked for a period of not
33 less than 10 years.

34 iii. We urge Congress to continue to
35 investigate grain companies as to the total
36 pricing system and any quality discounts
37 such as vomitoxin levels and scab.

38 c. Sale

39 i. We urge that an equivalent bushel
40 concept (EBC) be adopted, which can be
41 done by having a standard base moisture
42 level for each grain and the producer would
43 be paid for that level. This can be a deterrent
44 to the illegal practice of adding water to dry
45 grain, bringing it up to standard moisture
46 content.

47 ii. We ask Congress to enact legislation
48 making it illegal for major grain traders to
49 sell more grain than they owned during a
50 delivery month.

51 d. Protections

52 i. We support a contract grower's bill
53 of rights.

54 ii. We support the establishment and
55 enforcement of international grain standards
56 designed to protect the interests of
57 agricultural producers and consumers
58 throughout the world.

59 iii. Producers should have full flexibility
60 to make their own planting decisions.

61 iv. We support the validity of a farmer's
62 warehouse receipt as proof of his ownership
63 of stored grain in an elevator. We also
64 support legislation prohibiting seizure of
65 said grain by elevator creditors upon
66 foreclosure of elevators.

67 v. We support grain pool protection
68 fund.

69 vi. Grain sales and voluntary credit sales
70 would be covered by the funds.

71 vii. The Farmer-Owned Grain Reserve
72 (FOR) should be restored and strengthened
73 to serve as an "ever-normal granary" for
74 both producers and consumers. The reserve
75 should be expanded to include all non-
76 perishable farm commodities and
77 strengthened to provide for at least one
78 year's consumption and a strategic feed
79 grain reserve dedicated to renewable energy
80 production.

81 viii. We support removing grain
82 regulations from the PUC, and to be
83 regulated by the Secretary of Agriculture.

84

85 **5. Specialty Crops**

86 a. Specialty crops include but are not limited
87 to fruits, vegetables, dried fruits, nursery
88 crops, floriculture and horticulture including
89 turf grass, sod, pulse and herbal crops.

90 b. We support the reclassification of
91 industrial hemp as a non-controlled
92 substance and adopt policy to allow South

1 Dakota Farmers to grow industrial hemp
2 under state law without affecting eligibility
3 for USDA benefits, and supports legislation
4 to allow for industrial hemp to become a
5 crop in the U.S. again.

6

7 **6. Livestock**

8 a. Animal Welfare

9 i. We support continued cooperation
10 with other agricultural organizations to
11 combat misinformation and support good
12 animal husbandry practices.

13 ii. We support all efforts to refute anti-
14 meat campaigns. Farmers Union members
15 are urged to write letters and contact the
16 media with accurate information on the use
17 and benefits of all meats.

18 iii. We recommend that SDFU assign a
19 person to monitor the activities of animal
20 rights advocates.

21 iv. We oppose the ideologies and
22 agendas of extremist organizations.

23 v. We favor the humane treatment of
24 animals; however, we urge caution in
25 passing laws regarding animal rights so that
26 sound management practices are not
27 adversely affected.

28 vi. We support agricultural industry
29 established standards for the management,
30 care and treatment of animals in agriculture,
31 commerce and research.

32 b. Antibiotics

33 Ionophores should not be defined as an
34 antibiotic and all subsequent research
35 statistics should be defined as separate
36 entities.

37 c. Dairy

38 i. We support regional milk marketing
39 compacts provided they:

40 A. Address the price of all classes of
41 milk — not just Class I.

42 B. Set the compact price at the cost
43 of production.

44 ii. We support a dairy pricing system
45 that protects a profit margin.

46 iii. We understand health measures but
47 resist further consolidation and burdensome
48 restrictions on raw milk sales from on-farm
49 production to the public as long as adequate
50 labeling is provided.

51 iv. We support the family dairy industry
52 and statewide efforts for continued
53 development of dairy production and
54 manufacturing.

55 d. Development

56 i. Livestock production is essential to
57 the well-being of S.D.

58 ii. We actively promote the
59 development of livestock production in S.D.
60 as a vital component in maintaining a
61 healthy agricultural sector.

62 iii. Rural citizens here and in other states
63 are voicing increasing concern about the
64 safety of waste disposal procedures at large-
65 scale livestock facilities—especially hog
66 confinement and dairy complexes. Frequent
67 reports of spills and leaks of millions of
68 gallons of manure into streams and aquifers
69 have made many rural citizens reluctant to
70 support these kinds of developments in their
71 communities. To answer these concerns, we
72 support the implementation of anaerobic
73 digesters at facilities which provide green
74 energy and will provide more efficient
75 fertilizer.

76 iv. We support the establishment of a
77 clean-up fund for large-scale livestock
78 facilities. Revenues should be collected
79 annually from operators of confinements
80 with 1,000 animal units or more and
81 deposited into a fund to provide for clean-up
82 of hazardous wastes attributable to such
83 facilities.

84 e. Marketing

85 We support the following efforts and
86 programs aimed at increasing the farmer's
87 and rancher's share of the consumer's meat
88 dollar:

89 A. We support development of new
90 farmer- and rancher-owned meat packing
91 and retail cooperatives.

1 B. We support continuous
2 monitoring of livestock and meat imports to
3 properly assess their impact on domestic
4 markets.

5 C. We support interstate distribution
6 of state inspected meats.

7 f. Transportation

8 We support transportation of all livestock,
9 including horses, for slaughter domestically
10 and internationally.

11 **B. New and Beginning Farmers and** 12 **Ranchers**

13 **1. Lending Programs**

14
15 a. We believe that the federal
16 government's status as a guarantor of loans
17 by commercial lenders must be balanced
18 with direct lending programs targeted at
19 assisting beginning farmers. Direct loans
20 should be viewed as "yardstick" credit to
21 keep interest on private loans and
22 government-insured loans at the lowest
23 possible levels.

24
25 b. Efforts should be made to increase the
26 number of loans at lower interest rates with
27 emphasis to beginning farmers and to extend
28 the repayment terms on farm operating loans
29 to 10 years.

30 c. In times of drought, natural or price
31 disaster, low-interest loans should be made
32 available to farmers and ranchers with a
33 proven loss on their operation. Interest and
34 principal payments on existing loans should
35 be deferred. We further recommend that
36 during the period that a moratorium shall
37 apply, principal repayment time be extended
38 equally to the crop years lost by disaster and
39 interest repayments should be deferred
40 without prejudice during this same period.

41 d. Operators should be given the
42 opportunity to refinance at a lower rate of
43 interest. Farm operating loans should bear
44 interest of 5 percent or less. Emergency and
45 disaster loans should be limited to the

46 operating costs of the next year's
47 production.

48 e. In addition, we propose that loan
49 payments to the Farm Service Agency
50 (FSA) be placed in a state FSA revolving
51 fund which would then be made available
52 for future loans within the state.

53 **2. Recruitment**

54
55 a. We encourage SDFU to develop and
56 maintain a registry for aspiring farmers as
57 well as for established farmers who desire to
58 pass their operation on to a beginning
59 farmer.

60 b. SDFU should develop an educational tool
61 to highlight that there are also many
62 opportunities in agriculture other than the
63 predominant mega-crop and livestock farms
64 and ranches of the state.

65 **C. U.S. Department of Agriculture**

66 67 **1. Animal, Plant, Health Inspection** 68 **Service**

69
70 a. Animal Disease Traceability (ADT)

71 i. The stated purpose of the ADT is to
72 identify specific animals and record their
73 movements to enable a 48-hour trace back
74 of any disease or exposed animal.

75 A. We oppose a mandatory
76 program.

77 B. We support local control of the
78 S.D. data (the S.D. Animal Industry Board).

79 C. Confidentiality of collected data
80 is essential to the integrity of the program.
81 Also, an exemption from Freedom of
82 Information Act (FOIA) and limiting
83 producer liability after an ownership change
84 would need to be included in any program.

85 D. We would not support requiring
86 4-H and Future Farmers of America (FFA)
87 youth to sign up their parents with a premise
88 identification.

89 E. Any costs associated with the
90 development and implementation of ADT
91 should be paid by the U.S. government.

1 Also, a cost analysis should be done on
2 ADT so that the industry and individuals
3 know what the costs are and who is going to
4 pay.

5 b. Testing

6 i. We support more testing on animals
7 and plants.

8 ii. All testing should be open and
9 transparent.

10 iii. USDA should create a
11 comprehensive plan for all test results.

12 iv. We believe cattle processing plants
13 should be allowed to test for Bovine
14 Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in
15 individual animals.

16 c. Pest Control

17 We urge establishment of a USDA/farmer
18 cost-sharing program for insect and pest
19 control during times of emergency.

20

21 **2. Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL)**

22 a. We support mandatory COOL for meat
23 products. Animals must be born, raised,
24 slaughtered, and processed in the U.S. to
25 receive a U.S. origin label.

26 b. We recommend that USDA and
27 Congress reinstate mandatory COOL similar
28 to the current WTO compliant Australian
29 model.

30

31 **3. Crop Insurance**

32 a. We support yield adjustments for
33 disaster losses and the encouragement of
34 expansion for specialty crops and livestock.

35 b. We continue to favor expansion of the
36 revenue assurance program.

37 c. Crop insurance should be subsidized on
38 a declining scale.

39 d. Conservation compliance should be
40 mandatory for government-subsidized crop
41 insurance.

42 e. Lending institutions should not be
43 allowed to sell crop insurance.

44

45

46

47 **4. Farm Service Agency (FSA)**

48 a. We reaffirm our support for the farmer-
49 elected committee system. This proven
50 system should not be compromised through
51 the addition of non-farm or ranch
52 appointees.

53 b. Farmer-elected committees ought to
54 have more power over day-to-day decision
55 making involved in administration of the
56 farm program.

57 c. We urge uniform interpretation of rules
58 and regulations between county and state
59 offices.

60 d. We oppose efforts to dismantle the FSA
61 delivery system through office closures and
62 elimination of county office employee jobs.
63 Efforts to reduce spending ought to be fairly
64 balanced among all agencies of the USDA
65 and federal government.

66 e. We support the continuation of the
67 limited resource loan program and urge that
68 35 percent of FSA loans be set aside for this
69 program.

70 f. We urge loans for construction and/or
71 improvement of farm/ranch homes be made
72 available.

73 g. We continue to support the major
74 provisions of the 1987 Farm Credit Act and
75 demand that FSA observe the intent of that
76 legislation. In cases of an appeal, the State
77 Mediation Board should be used to ensure
78 impartiality.

79

80 **5. Grain Inspection, Packers and
81 Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)**

82 a. We urge the USDA to continually
83 monitor the operation of the mandatory
84 livestock price reporting system.

85 b. We urge that the Packers and Stockyards
86 Act be fully enforced with equal attention
87 paid to the problems of monopolistic
88 control, manipulation of prices, deception
89 and fraud.

90 c. GIPSA must be maintained and
91 adequately funded to accomplish its mission.
92 It should be prepared to fully coordinate

1 research and investigative work with the
2 Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

3 d. We urge GIPSA to review and revise its
4 livestock buyer bonding requirements to
5 ensure adequate protection to the sellers of
6 livestock.

7 8 **6. Marketing and Research**

9 a. We strongly urge the Agricultural
10 Marketing Service (AMS) to utilize the best
11 and most accurate information for releasing
12 crop and livestock production reports.

13 b. It is very important that the USDA
14 provide accurate, up-to-date information to
15 the public with regard to farm prices,
16 income and parity levels.

17 c. The USDA Secretary should present the
18 facts concerning the costs and benefits of
19 public expenditures and of the small share of
20 the consumer food dollar received by
21 farmers and ranchers.

22 d. We urge continued research for USDA
23 at universities to develop better pest control
24 techniques and educational programs to
25 assist farmers and foresters in the best and
26 safest use of pesticides, other agricultural
27 chemicals and other means to assure
28 wholesome food and a clean environment.

29 30 **7. Payment Limitations**

31 a. So-called multiple entity rules allowing
32 farms to be artificially divided in order to
33 avoid payment limitations should be
34 abolished.

35 b. We are opposed to the use of commodity
36 certificates or any other means of exceeding
37 payment limitations.

38 39 **8. Agricultural Data**

40 a. We support the property rights of all
41 producers in relation to their agricultural
42 data.

43 b. South Dakota Farmers Union should work
44 to help farmers and ranchers gather,
45 interpret, and use all the personal
46 agricultural data to better maximize farm

47 and ranch efficiency and profitability. This
48 includes but is not limited to yield maps,
49 variable rate fertilizer, variable rate seeding,
50 dual hybrid planters, and all livestock data.

51 52 **D. South Dakota Department of** 53 **Agriculture (SDDA)**

54 55 **1. Agricultural Services**

56 a. We recommend that the SDDA provide
57 for poultry inspection as a part of the state
58 meat inspection program.

59 b. We encourage the expansion of the S.D.
60 Pesticide Disposal Program as a way of
61 preventing ground water contamination.

62 c. We urge the SDDA to continue the
63 voluntary credit counseling service for
64 economically hard-pressed family farmers
65 and ranchers.

66 d. We support legislation to provide
67 adequate funding for uniform inspection of
68 moisture and protein measuring devices by
69 the SDDA.

70 e. We urge the legislature to increase
71 funding for insect control and we urge the
72 SDDA to take advantage of federal funds
73 that are available.

74 f. The SDDA should be adequately funded
75 to enable it to:

76 i. Research, identify and develop
77 markets for S.D. agricultural products.

78 ii. Encourage the continual tailoring of
79 S.D. agricultural production to both general
80 and specific market demands.

81 iii. Promote the processing of S.D.
82 products in S.D.

83 iv. Conduct ongoing research on
84 marketing, distribution and production and
85 develop recommendations for new policies
86 and institutional mechanisms.

87 88 **2. Animal Industry Board (AIB)**

89 a. Strong controls are needed to prevent
90 and eradicate livestock and poultry diseases.

91 b. Domesticated wild animals, birds and
92 dogs should be treated as livestock.

1 c. We must communicate with the AIB and
2 the state veterinarian in order to ensure
3 affirmative action that will be beneficial to
4 the livestock industry.
5 d. Horse farms and companion pet breeders
6 should be added to the jurisdiction of the
7 AIB.

8

9 **3. Brand Board**

10 a. Every member of the brand board must
11 be the owner of a registered brand and
12 elected from districts from which the board
13 members and voters reside.

14 b. We recommend that a detailed, audited
15 report be submitted to the Legislature on an
16 annual basis.

17 c. Anyone buying cattle should be given a
18 reasonable length of time to rebrand
19 purchased cattle.

20

21 **4. Marketing and Research**

22 The state should expand research into
23 adapting specialty crops to S.D. Several
24 new crops may be possible with further
25 development of irrigation and more
26 adequate water supplies.

27

28 **5. Mediation**

29 a. We support continuation of the Farm
30 Credit Mediation Program. It has been
31 demonstrated that this program reduces the
32 number of farm bankruptcy filings and helps
33 to alleviate tensions between lenders and
34 borrowers.

35 b. We further express our support for Rural
36 Renewal Coalition efforts to expand the
37 mediation program to cover additional areas
38 of conflict involving farmers, ranchers,
39 government agencies and other entities.
40 When one party asks for mediation all
41 parties must participate.

42 c. Fees ought to be regularly reviewed and
43 reduced if their impact would deny access to
44 the program or jeopardize future federal
45 funding.

46

47 **6. Office of the Secretary**

48 a. We support the concept of an elected
49 secretary of agriculture.

50 b. The department should be more than a
51 regulatory agency.

52

53 **7. State Fair**

54 a. We support the S.D. State Fair in Huron.

55 b. We support legislation that would allow
56 the State Fair to keep all sales tax revenues
57 collected on the fairgrounds.

58 c. We need research to enhance the State
59 Fair.

60 d. We ask that the Legislature reinstate the
61 voting power of the State Fair Commission.

62 e. We support the state investing in capital
63 improvements at the State Fair.

64 f. We support state funding as a line item
65 in the state budget.

66

67 **III. COOPERATIVES**

68

69 **A. Elections**

70

71 We recommend that all cooperatives use the
72 secret ballot on controversial issues and
73 elections and prohibit employees from
74 actively campaigning in any cooperative
75 election.

76

77 **B. Credit Unions**

78

79 1. We support the expansion of credit
80 unions.

81 2. We encourage Farmers Union groups to
82 be aggressive in forming and furthering
83 credit unions and promoting legislation on
84 their behalf.

85 3. We oppose efforts to tax credit union
86 earnings prior to their allocation to
87 members.

88 4. We oppose proposals to merge the
89 Credit Union Insurance Fund with the
90 Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
91 (FDIC).

92

1 **C. Farm Credit System (FCS)**

2
3 1. The FCS provides a substantial portion
4 of the credit used by American farmers and
5 ranchers.

6 2. Member control by the democratic
7 process of these cooperative financial
8 institutions is essential to their continued
9 success and survival.

10 3. We support local control over these key
11 rural lending institutions.

12 4. We urge that all borrowers be charged
13 the same rate of interest for similar loans.

14 5. All borrowers should be required to
15 purchase stock in the cooperative.

16 6. FCS institutions should be required to
17 participate in farm loan mediation programs.
18

19 **D. Marketing and Promotion**

20
21 1. We support designating October as
22 Co-op Month.

23 2. We urge the appropriation of funds to
24 staff a cooperative division in the SDDA
25 capable of promoting cooperatives as
26 required by law;

27 a. To promote cooperatives.

28 b. To provide expertise and advice in the
29 establishment of new credit unions and
30 cooperatives.

31 c. To provide expertise and resources in
32 establishing cooperative goals and to
33 provide information on local demographics
34 for planning.

35 d. To act as an impartial advisor to
36 financially troubled cooperatives.

37 3. We strongly urge that the farm
38 cooperative system pursue the development
39 and marketing of grain-based alcohol fuels
40 through its network of local and regional
41 cooperatives to enable producers to retain
42 some control over their commodities.

43 4. We support development of a program to
44 encourage cooperatives and governmental
45 bodies to organize local collection points for
46 material that can be recycled.

47 **E. Taxation**

48
49 1. We oppose any governmental action that
50 attempts to dictate the time and manner of
51 returning cooperative patronage earnings or
52 refunds.

53 2. We strongly support the Capper-
54 Volstead Act and urge Congress to enforce
55 it.

56 3. Taxation of cooperatives must be
57 consistent with the Federal Internal Revenue
58 Tax Code.
59

60 **F. Value-Added**

61
62 1. We strongly support value-added
63 cooperatives.

64 2. We support the S.D. Value-Added
65 Agriculture Development Center and efforts
66 to build and develop additional farmer-
67 owned, value-added cooperatives in our
68 state. We welcome the fact that more than a
69 dozen other organizations and cooperatives
70 have been willing to join with Farmers
71 Union in providing support for this
72 endeavor. We do, however, believe that
73 many traditional cooperatives could do more
74 in the way of assistance, experience and
75 cooperation for the expansion of new value-
76 added cooperatives.

77 3. We call on the Internal Revenue Service
78 (IRS) and/or Congress to amend any rules
79 preventing farmers from organizing
80 cooperatively to add value to their livestock
81 through a biological process (feeding).
82

83 **IV. EDUCATION**

84
85 **A. Ag Education in the Classroom**

86
87 We support legislation and utilization of
88 agriculture in the classroom in elementary
89 and secondary schools. However,
90 educational materials must be carefully
91 selected and should exclude any literature

1 promoting specific organizations or political
2 points of view.

3

4 **B. Extension Service**

5

6 1. We support reinstatement of county
7 extension services along with 4-H and well
8 trained agents.

9 2. Unbiased extension agent expertise and
10 experimental farm research are vital to S.D.

11

12 **C. Federal**

13

14 1. We urge Congress to maintain and
15 increase funds available for student loans.

16 2. We believe young people should also be
17 given the option of participating for at least
18 two years in a national service corps as
19 partial or complete repayment of student
20 loans.

21 3. The No Child Left Behind federal
22 education program should be fully funded to
23 implement the federal requirements or
24 eliminated if not fully funded.

25 4. We support federal Perkins funding to
26 local school districts that offer career and
27 technical education curriculum.

28 5. We oppose any cuts of federal funds for
29 special education programs for the disabled
30 in S.D. school districts.

31

32 **D. Higher Education**

33

34 **1. S.D. Board of Regents**

35 a. We recommend that the state legislature
36 and the S.D. Board of Regents as well as
37 academic faculty and administrators direct,
38 divert, and prioritize state legislative
39 appropriations in research funding to our
40 state land grant institutions toward the
41 implementation of research and
42 development of organic farming and
43 alternative uses of our crops.

44 b. We encourage all S.D. colleges and
45 universities to pursue research and grants

46 that would help and enhance the farming
47 industry.

48

49 **2. South Dakota State University (SDSU)**

50 a. We urge SDSU to maintain research
51 independent of bio-technology companies to
52 allow unbiased research.

53 b. We urge SDSU to place greater
54 emphasis on increasing farm and ranch
55 profitability through improved farm
56 management and marketing. We also urge
57 emphasis on courses pertaining to rural life
58 studies which emphasize the contributions
59 made by family farmers and ranchers.

60 c. We urge continued research for USDA
61 at universities to develop better pest control
62 techniques and educational programs to
63 assist farmers and foresters in the best and
64 safest use of pesticides, other agricultural
65 chemicals and other means to assure
66 wholesome food and a clean environment.

67

68 **3. University of South Dakota (USD)**

69 We encourage USD graduate doctors to stay
70 and practice medicine for ten years in rural
71 S.D. in return for the payment of their entire
72 tuition by the state.

73

74 **4. South Dakota Technical Schools**

75 We recognize South Dakota Technical
76 School education programs as an important
77 part of agricultural education in South
78 Dakota.

79

80 **E. Public Education**

81

82 1. SDFU has consistently supported our
83 educational system. We strongly
84 recommend the continued support of these
85 institutions of learning in their endeavors to
86 enhance the cultural and economic life of
87 the people of our state and nation.

88 2. We recommend that the percentage of
89 state funding to elementary and secondary
90 public schools general funds be increased,

1 with the formula weighted to benefit small
2 schools.

3 3. The formula for granting monetary aid to
4 students should be based on the need of the
5 individual. Rural school districts should be
6 assured of their fair share of federal and
7 state aid to education. Federal and state
8 educational requirements ought to be funded
9 with federal and state aid.

10 4. We recommend that the “scarcity factor”
11 and the “declining enrollment factor” be
12 given adequate consideration in determining
13 the level of state aid to individual school
14 districts. These are important factors for
15 rural districts where per-pupil busing costs
16 are substantially higher.

17 5. We recommend that elementary and
18 secondary schools periodically evaluate their
19 position on fundamental subjects to keep a
20 strong emphasis on basic education. There
21 should be a limit to the classroom time lost
22 to extracurricular activities by students and
23 teachers.

24 6. We fully support agriculture education,
25 Family and Consumer Science (FACS),
26 trade and industrial training programs, and
27 recognize that FFA is an integral part of
28 agriculture education.

29 7. We recommend that cooperative
30 education, farm economics and the
31 importance of the family farm to the
32 economy be included as a part of the
33 curriculum in any free enterprise course in
34 public schools.

35 8. We support reinstatement of adult farm
36 management courses in S.D.

37 9. We oppose the construction of major
38 school buildings without the approval by
39 vote of the people of the school district.

40 10. We support the S.D. Literacy Council
41 and its accomplishments.

42 11. Because of its negative impact on S.D.,
43 we oppose any unfunded mandates
44 regarding education.

45 12. We support additional state funding to
46 schools that offer career and technical

47 education classes such as agriculture
48 education, family and consumer sciences,
49 and trade and industrial training programs.

50 13. We urge state lawmakers to increase the
51 per-student allocation for English as a
52 second language program (ESL) for
53 students.

54 **F. South Dakota Board of Education**

55 We urge the Board of Education to restore
56 funding support for extended service
57 contracts for agriculture education
58 instructors. Loss of this funding greatly
59 reduces the effectiveness of agriculture
60 education instruction at S.D. high schools
61 and reduces the educational opportunities
62 for students who may not have access to
63 project advice from agriculture education
64 instructors during the key summer months.

65 **V. CONSERVATION AND LAND USE**

66 **A. Conservation**

67 1. We support conservation programs
68 funded at levels that ensure continued
69 protection of our soil, water, and virgin sod.

70 2. We favor a short-term, paid land
71 diversion program.

72 3. Base acres established prior to entering
73 any farm program, or being displaced by
74 natural disasters for multiple years, should
75 be preserved for times when land comes
76 back into production.

77 4. We urge the state of S.D. to restore a
78 shelter belt incentive program as a means of
79 encouraging the planting and renovation of
80 shelterbelts.

81 **B. Land Use**

82 1. We support aerial land map availability
83 to the public.

84 2. We favor multiple uses of appropriate
85 national forest and other public and private
86
87
88
89
90
91
92

1 lands to include grazing of livestock and the
2 raw resources industries, commensurate
3 with family-sized farm and ranch operations.
4 3. We support a comprehensive land use
5 policy that recognizes the objectives of land
6 tenure, promotion of family farms,
7 population distribution, stabilizing farm
8 income and production, conservation of
9 natural resources and providing land for
10 public use.

11 4. Land use regulation should be left to
12 local government except in situations that
13 lead to multi-county or interstate problems.

14 5. We oppose the acquisition of productive
15 farmland to extend wildlife habitat. The
16 arbitrary designation of farm units for
17 wildlife mitigation without negotiation with
18 a willing farm operator is disruptive and
19 destructive to the efficiency of family farm
20 management. Land to extend wildlife
21 habitat should be acquired only by short-
22 term lease or rental contract.

23 6. We urge both governmental and private
24 groups to continue expanding their efforts to
25 take action to rectify pollution problems.

26 7. We support county commissioners
27 having the final decision on the sale of
28 property to government entities.

30 **8. Eminent Domain**

31 a. We understand that issues of eminent
32 domain are significant for landowners.
33 Every effort should be made to adequately
34 resolve these issues. However, it is
35 important that the welfare of the entire state
36 receive equal consideration.

37 b. We believe eminent domain should be
38 reserved for public projects. Where eminent
39 domain may eventually be used, individual
40 notification and public hearings must be
41 held before the project is allowed to
42 proceed.

43 c. We support severance damages
44 including payment for the diminution of
45 remaining land values and increased
46 expenses and inconvenience suffered by

47 affected landowners and operators. After
48 initial court expenses, including attorneys'
49 and appraisers' fees, additional expenses
50 must be borne by the constructing agency in
51 condemnation proceedings.

52 d. We believe eminent domain
53 consideration should be given to routes that
54 minimize adverse human impact.

55 e. We call upon federal authorities to
56 resolve eminent domain and environmental
57 impact issues to provide greater competition.

58 f. We oppose further expansion of eminent
59 domain for private industry and for private
60 use.

61 g. We oppose the use of eminent domain to
62 exchange property to only increase tax base
63 for state income.

65 **9. Fifth Amendment**

66 a. We support the Fifth Amendment of the
67 United States Constitution which declares
68 that government cannot seize property
69 without just compensation.

70 b. We urge Congress to define in law "a
71 taking" as any action by the government
72 which deprives citizens of use of their
73 property or reduces the value of that
74 property.

76 **10. Planning and Zoning**

77 a. Any state legislation should recognize
78 that agricultural land must be preserved for
79 the future. Family farmers should be
80 represented in all zoning deliberations.

81 b. We encourage counties to enact
82 comprehensive land use plans and zoning
83 ordinances to control and regulate the
84 potential expansion of large-scale livestock
85 confinement facilities and cattle feed lots.

86 c. We oppose any effort to replace county
87 zoning laws with statewide zoning laws.

88 d. County planning and zoning boards
89 should be made up of a majority of rural
90 residents.

1 **11. Private Property**
2 a. Anyone trespassing on private land
3 should be liable for his or her own action.
4 b. No person should be allowed on private
5 property using water as access without the
6 landowner's permission.
7 c. Any state entity that controls public
8 waters that cause damage to private property
9 should be held responsible for returning the
10 property to its original form.

11
12 **12. Public Lands**
13 a. Rental fees for the lease of state-owned
14 or other public lands for grazing or other
15 agricultural purposes must be consistent
16 with rental fees on private lands in the same
17 area and of equal productivity.
18 b. When state-owned land is sold, the
19 appraised price per acre must also be
20 consistent with the value of private lands in
21 the same locality and of equal access.

22
23 **C. Natural Resources Conservation**
24 **Service (NRCS)**

25
26 **1. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**
27 a. We support continuation of CRP.
28 b. CRP eligibility should be modified to
29 include lands that have been cropped during
30 at least two of the previous 10 years. CRP
31 eligibility should also be extended to include
32 farmland and pastureland that has been
33 affected by declared weather- related
34 disasters or crop diseases during at least two
35 of the previous 10 years.
36 c. CRP payments should be established at
37 fiscally-responsible levels and enrollment,
38 or re-enrollment, should target highly-
39 erodible lands with payments based on
40 county average cash rents for highly
41 erodible land. Farmland and pastures that
42 have been flooded for one or more years and
43 cropland that has been repeatedly plagued
44 by disease should also be eligible for
45 enrollment.

46 d. CRP contracts should continue to be
47 long term.
48 e. Uniform standards should be applied for
49 enrollment or re-enrollment of land in CRP.

50
51 **2. Environmental Quality Incentive**
52 **Program (EQIP)**

53 While dealing with pollution problems,
54 EQIP assistance should be targeted to family
55 farm agricultural production units with
56 1,000 animal units or less per site.

57
58 **3. Watershed and Flood Prevention**

59 a. We urge continued funding of the Small
60 Watersheds Flood Prevention and
61 Conservation Program.
62 b. Federal funding provided through the
63 NRCS should also be targeted toward
64 reducing erosion along the Missouri River
65 watershed.

66
67 **D. Mineral Rights**

68
69 1. All mineral rights should be returned to
70 the owner of the land in 10 years or when
71 land is resold.
72 2. All mineral rights should be retained by
73 the surface owner.
74 3. Landowners with severed mineral rights
75 need to be justly compensated and protected.

76
77 **E. Mining**

78
79 1. We are categorically opposed to the
80 mining of uranium in S.D. Not only is there
81 a great health risk in the form of potentially
82 hazardous exposure to radioactive mining
83 dust, but there are also considerable
84 additional negative environmental impacts
85 on land and water.
86 2. We support the adoption and
87 enforcement of a comprehensive strip-
88 mining bill. Our goal must be to ensure the
89 best use of land and to return mined land to
90 its original use.

1 3. We believe that the beauty of the Black
2 Hills constitutes a natural treasure that must
3 be protected and preserved for the
4 enjoyment of future generations. We,
5 therefore, oppose strip mining of gold and
6 the utilization of mining methods which
7 jeopardize the environment.

8

9 **F. Oil and Gas**

10

11 1. We support proper environmental
12 safeguards to protect the economic interests
13 of farmers and ranchers.

14 2. Full protection should be given during
15 the planning, exploration, development and
16 reclamation from all processes related to oil
17 and gas exploration and development.

18 3. Land affected by oil and gas exploration
19 and development should be given 10 percent
20 obsolescence from land taxes due to the
21 devaluation of the surface.

22 4. Mediation for surface damages and
23 reclamation should be under the auspices of
24 the SDDA and should be mandatory if the
25 surface owner requests mediation 90 days
26 from the beginning of negotiations with the
27 oil and gas exploration company.

28 5. Payments for loss of income and
29 damages to the surface resulting from
30 ongoing oil and gas development should be
31 made annually until total reclamation of the
32 affected surface is complete.

33

34 **G. Outdoor Recreation**

35

36 1. We support state statutes requiring
37 landowner permission prior to hunting on
38 private property.

39 2. We encourage the development of a
40 system to provide a percentage of hunting
41 and fishing license revenues to counties and
42 townships.

43 3. The authority to set license fees should
44 be returned to the state legislature.

45 4. We oppose any further increases in
46 hunting and fishing license fees. Hunters on

47 preserves should be charged the same out-
48 of-state license fees assessed against other
49 out-of-state hunters.

50 5. We favor enactment of legislation based
51 on the Wisconsin model prohibiting
52 harassment of hunters by animal rights
53 activists.

54 6. Road hunting should not be permitted
55 without the adjoining landowner's
56 permission.

57 7. We urge limiting the ability for a game
58 warden to enter private land to inspect
59 licenses while hunting without landowner's
60 permission unless noticeable violations are
61 occurring.

62

63 **H. Pipelines**

64

65 1. We believe that proper environmental
66 safeguards must be implemented and the
67 economic interests of farmers and ranchers
68 be fully protected during the construction
69 and operation of oil or other pipelines.

70 2. We recommend that appropriate
71 legislation be enacted to ensure pipeline
72 safety and to protect against
73 environmentally damaging leaks.

74

75 **I. Predator Control**

76

77 1. It is essential that the federal government
78 establish a program utilizing both federal
79 and state departments of agriculture to
80 control predatory animals. We recognize
81 the need for livestock producers to protect
82 their livestock from predators. We urge the
83 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
84 and Congress to continue the use of
85 approved practices such as the M-44 Sodium
86 Cyanide capsules and Sodium Fluoroacetate
87 (commonly known as "compound 1080").

88 2. We support a comprehensive review of
89 the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973.

90 3. We urge the legislature to adopt a state
91 bounty on all predators, except endangered
92 species.

1 **J. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks**
2 **(GFP)**

- 3
4 1. GFP should be required to control
5 noxious weeds on lands they own or control.
6 2. The GFP should be more accountable to
7 the state Legislature by placing their budget
8 under the authority of the appropriations
9 committee.
10 3. GFP should be required to pay taxes on
11 their lake access land at the same rate as
12 adjoining agricultural land. All state park
13 lands should be thoroughly investigated as
14 to use or non-use.
15 4. GFP should be authorized to utilize
16 funds earmarked for land acquisition to
17 make necessary repairs on dams located on
18 state-owned or leased property.
19 5. We support legislation to require GFP to
20 offer a free deer and antelope license to each
21 resident landowner with a production unit of
22 160 acres or more.
23 6. We support the idea of a transferable
24 landowner's deer license. The number of
25 licenses would be limited as deemed
26 necessary by the GFP.
27 7. We urge GFP to formulate and
28 implement a plan for the management of the
29 black-tailed prairie dog on state and federal
30 land.
31 8. We urge GFP to manage wildlife and
32 water to reduce depredation and reimburse
33 landowners for depredation.
34 9. Animal Damage Control (ADC)
35 a. We support any legislation for the
36 transfer of the ADC program to the SDDA.

37
38 **K. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACE)**
39

- 40 1. We encourage ACE to address the
41 siltation problems behind mainstream
42 Missouri River dams.
43 2. We recommend that the ACE,
44 appropriate conservation districts and the
45 states of Neb. and S.D. work together to

- 46 resolve erosion and sedimentation problems
47 on the Missouri and Niobrara Rivers.
48 3. We are strongly opposed to the sale of
49 water and waterway user's fees by ACE.
50 4. We support the upgrade of the
51 Mississippi locks and dams' systems.

52
53 **L. Water**
54

55 **1. Law**

- 56 a. We urge adoption of the following order
57 of preference in the use of water: [a]
58 domestic and municipal consumption; [b]
59 hydroelectric power; [c] industrial
60 consumption; [d] irrigation [e] wildlife and
61 recreation, and [f] navigation.
62 b. We agree with the objectives in the
63 water user district law by which S.D. will
64 keep priority rights on water within its
65 boundaries.

66
67 **2. Rural Water Resource Development**
68 **Program**

- 69 a. The state of S.D. should have a rural
70 water resource development program
71 wherein:
72 i. The state would provide increased
73 financial assistance for the development of
74 rural water systems.
75 ii. The state would also expand research
76 and technical assistance for developing these
77 systems on an increased cooperative basis to
78 lower the cost.
79 iii. We support establishing a funding
80 program for rural water systems.
81 iv. There should be more stringent
82 inspection of refuse and runoff from cities
83 and towns, as well as from manufacturing
84 and processing plants.

85
86 **3. Rural Water System**

- 87 We support the S.D. Rural Water systems
88 and full Congressional authorization and
89 funding.

1 **4. Watersheds**

2 We support the federal funding for
3 watershed restoration projects.

4
5 **M. Waste**

6
7 1. Because of unstable and unsuitable soils
8 in certain areas, we strongly urge a safe site
9 be found to establish a hazardous waste
10 disposal site.

11 2. We recognize that disposal of hazardous
12 chemical wastes poses a serious threat to
13 public health and the environment in many
14 areas of the U.S.

15 3. We strongly oppose the establishment of
16 a disposal site for hazardous chemical
17 wastes in S.D.

18 4. We encourage the development of
19 hazardous waste disposal methods, other
20 than landfills, with stricter enforcement of
21 laws on transporting and handling hazardous
22 waste. Our ground water must be
23 safeguarded from contamination.

24 5. We support the waste pesticide
25 collection and pesticide container recycling
26 measures approved by the 1992 S.D.
27 Legislature. These programs, when fully
28 implemented, will help to remove a major
29 threat to our rural environment.

30 6. We support efforts to recycle, reuse, or
31 conserve products and resources when cost
32 effective and environmentally safe.

33 7. We oppose allowing S.D. to become a
34 national center for solid waste disposal.

35
36 **N. Weed and Pest Control**

37
38 1. We expect the federal government to
39 take steps to control noxious weeds, insects,
40 and other pests on U.S. Forest Service (FS)
41 grazing land, trust land and all land within
42 U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and
43 waterfowl production areas as well as right-
44 of-ways.

45 2. We urge members to continue to
46 cooperate with township, county and state
47 weed control programs.

48 3. We also support stricter enforcement of
49 present law and the establishment of an
50 expanded educational program at the county
51 level under the county agent's direction.

52 4. We are opposed to legislation to
53 combine weed and pest control boards with
54 those controlling predators.

55 5. We urge support of the Environmental
56 Protection Agency's (EPA) registration
57 review process for atrazine and it must
58 continue to rely on quality controlled and
59 peer-reviewed science as the basis for any
60 outcome.

61
62 **O. Wetlands**

63
64 1. We support preservation of the nation's
65 wetlands. However, jurisdiction and
66 implementation of wetlands programs has
67 been confused and arbitrary and has often
68 violated the rights of landowners.

69 2. Land should only be designated as a
70 wetland if all three criteria [1. hydrology, 2.
71 predominance of hydric soil, and 3. a
72 prevalence of hydrophytic vegetation] are
73 present.

74 3. We support the memorandum of
75 understanding between the USDA, EPA and
76 ACE placing responsibility for designation
77 of agricultural wetlands with the NRCS.

78 4. Arbitrary and excessive penalties
79 mandated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
80 Service (FWS) have had a devastating
81 impact on farmers. Increased local control
82 and common sense would relieve many of
83 the problems associated with designation
84 and supervision of wetlands.

85 5. Federal regulations should be amended
86 to allow farmers to consolidate wetlands in a
87 given acreage, provided there is no net loss
88 of wetlands in such acreage.

1 **VI. ENERGY AND**
2 **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

3
4 **A. Energy**

5
6 **1. Biodiesel and Ethanol**

7 a. We recommend continued congressional
8 vigilance to assure that EPA regulations
9 require use of all ethanol blended fuels.

10 b. Education and research are the keys to a
11 successful transition from our present day
12 petroleum dependency to a future self-
13 sufficiency based on our own renewable
14 resources. We should take every opportunity
15 to dispel lies and misinformation regarding
16 the safety of ethanol.

17 c. We support an ethanol fuel program
18 utilizing low-interest federal loans to
19 farmers and groups of farmers to build
20 ethanol production plants.

21 d. We urge the governor to require
22 Premium E30 in all state owned, non-flex
23 fuel vehicles.

24 e. We support continuation of the present
25 combination of state gas tax exemption and
26 producer incentives to encourage further
27 development of the ethanol industry in S.D.
28 We believe producer incentives ought to be
29 made available to all those engaged in
30 ethanol production in S.D.

31 f. We oppose any effort to impose a state
32 tax on corn to fund ethanol producer
33 incentive payments.

34 g. We urge all consumers to make a greater
35 use of higher blends of ethanol and bio-
36 diesel in their motor vehicles when practical.

37 h. We encourage the promotion and use of
38 94 octane Premium E30 through farmer-
39 owned and branded blender pumps in S.D.
40 We will work with cooperatives and others
41 to assure success through S.D.'s cooperative
42 fuel retailers.

43 i. We commend the American Coalition
44 for Ethanol, Growth Energy, Alternative
45 Fuels Institute, Veterans of Foreign Wars,
46 Renewable Fuels Association, and SDFU for

47 their educational and promotional efforts on
48 behalf of ethanol.

49
50 **2. Development**

51 a. Agriculture is an energy producer and
52 national security improves as domestic
53 energy resources are diversified.
54 Agricultural policy and energy policy should
55 work together effectively.

56 b. Energy policy must be consistent with our
57 system of family agriculture.

58 c. Programs for the development of
59 environmentally friendly renewable energy
60 sources should be conducted, with special
61 emphasis on solar energy, wind energy and
62 bio-based fuels, such as ethanol and bio-
63 diesel.

64 d. Elements of an effective national energy
65 policy include:

66 i. Equitable distribution and efficient
67 development of energy to assure adequate
68 production of food and fiber;

69 ii. Pricing policy which will prevent
70 economic hardship;

71 iii. A massive program to develop
72 renewable sources of energy;

73 iv. Economic assistance for family
74 farmers and ranchers to make agriculture
75 more self-sufficient through increased
76 application of alternative forms of energy.

77
78 **3. Electricity**

79 a. We support the maintenance of
80 territorial protection for rural electric
81 systems to guarantee access to affordable
82 electric power.

83 b. We oppose retail wheeling and federally
84 mandated restructuring of the electric utility
85 industry. Retail wheeling would force rural
86 consumers to pay for stranded costs that
87 would result if large customers leave the
88 electric grid and purchase their electricity
89 elsewhere.

90 c. Rural electric cooperatives have recently
91 acquired broad new capabilities to promote
92 rural economic development. Local rural

1 electric boards should be fully informed of
2 their potential new role in providing credit
3 for new rural development.

4 d. We oppose mandatory, time-certain
5 deregulation of the electric industry at the
6 federal level. Each state should determine
7 the timing and method of any restructuring
8 or deregulation of electricity.

9 e. We support development of
10 comprehensive, science-based standards to
11 help producers and utilities work together to
12 detect and mitigate stray voltage. We also
13 support requiring that any testing for stray
14 voltage be completed by a certified
15 professional engineer or certified master
16 electrician.

17

18 **4. Federal Energy Regulatory** 19 **Commission (FERC)**

20 Regulations must be established by the
21 FERC to assure that farmers and ranchers
22 receive adequate supplies of energy
23 necessary to carry on full-scale production
24 despite any breakdown in the distribution
25 system. Increasing taxes would create a
26 hardship on farmers with no effect on
27 reducing consumption.

28

29 **5. Missouri River Dams**

30 The amortization of the cost of constructing
31 main stem Missouri River dams was
32 established more than three decades ago.
33 There is no sound economic reason to make
34 any change in this rate structure. The power
35 produced is intended primarily for
36 preference customers who are non-profit
37 bodies such as rural electric cooperatives,
38 public power districts and municipal power
39 systems. We are opposed to any unjustified
40 increases to those rates. The power
41 revenues derived from the mainstream dams
42 are on schedule with the requirements of the
43 Pick-Sloan Act, which established the
44 original criteria.

45

46

47 **6. Public Power**

48 a. Publicly-owned resources should, to the
49 greatest extent possible, be developed on a
50 not-for-profit basis. First preference should
51 be given to publicly and cooperatively-
52 owned utilities.

53 b. We reaffirm our support for the
54 preference clause which provides a
55 preference in the sale of hydropower to
56 cooperatives and public bodies in our belief
57 that public dollars used to provide the
58 benefit of flood control, navigation,
59 irrigation, increased fish and wildlife and
60 recreation, as well as hydropower, should be
61 used for the well-being of the general public
62 and not the stockholders of private utilities.

63 c. The Western Area Power Administration
64 (WAPA) and other federally-owned Power
65 Marketing Administrations (PMAs) are an
66 essential element in the delivery of
67 affordable electric power to members of
68 rural electric cooperatives and customers of
69 municipally-owned utilities. We strongly
70 oppose any legislation that would result in
71 sale of the PMAs.

72 d. Many hydropower dams have been built
73 and operated on public domain by private
74 power companies leasing these sites and
75 operating for profit. We urge the DOI to
76 reclaim these sites and facilities upon the
77 termination of leases so that the fullest
78 possible development can be made for the
79 benefit of the power-using public.

80 e. Any sale of PMAs should give current
81 preference customers the first purchase
82 option.

83 f. Future power developments on public
84 lands should be under federal government
85 supervision, with retention of the facility by
86 the government and operated in the public
87 interest.

88 g. We urge legislation to give the
89 Department of Energy authority to supervise
90 public and private power grids and entities,
91 which would prevent blackouts and failure
92 of power facilities.

1 h. We favor a policy of utility
2 responsibility by the federal government
3 which would assure non-profit power groups
4 the necessary credit and financial support to
5 set up needed generating and transmitting
6 facilities.

7

8 **7. Rural Electrification Administration** 9 **(REA)**

10 a. We believe that a strong Rural Utilities
11 Loan Program is vital to the needs of the
12 nation's rural electric cooperatives.

13 b. We support the REA insured and
14 guaranteed loan programs.

15 c. We strongly oppose any efforts to
16 "privatize" the REA or federal power
17 marketing agencies.

18 d. We urge Congress to approve
19 amendments to the Rural Electrification Act
20 which are designed to ensure the
21 continuation of adequate, long-term
22 financing for the nation's rural electric and
23 telecommunications systems provided that
24 lower interest rates are made available to
25 systems serving sparsely settled areas.

26

27 **8. Transmission**

28 a. We support the development and
29 transmission of electrical power to better
30 serve the farmers and ranchers of this
31 country.

32 b. We also urge landowner-friendly
33 development of the electrical transmission
34 facilities.

35

36 **9. Wind Energy**

37 a. We support the development of wind
38 and other alternative energy sources.

39 b. We urge farmers, ranchers and other
40 landowners to consider the establishment of
41 wind energy cooperatives and/or landowner
42 associations to represent their own interests
43 during the development process. Provisions
44 of wind energy leases should be open for
45 public review.

46 c. We urge electric companies to purchase
47 wind energy from individuals who set up
48 wind turbines on their own property or those
49 who cooperate to build wind turbines, for
50 the same price that they pay for energy from
51 other sources.

52 d. We support extending benefits to
53 community wind projects and cooperative
54 investment projects equal to tax credits now
55 offered to wind projects.

56 e. We support the development of
57 minimum criteria of regulating the
58 development of wind energy.

59 f. We support designating a portion of all
60 transmission lines in S.D. for wind energy.

61 g. We request that the name plate revenue
62 collected from wind farms be dedicated to
63 support local public schools.

64

65 **B. Telecommunications**

66

67 **1. Deregulation**

68 a. Congressional action to further
69 deregulate cable television and other rapidly
70 changing elements of the communications
71 industry must not be allowed to result in the
72 creation of new regional or national
73 monopolies. The clear public interest
74 mandates that we retain strong competition
75 and full access to a broad range of
76 information and opinion. Congressional and
77 U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) attention
78 ought to focus on the potential effects of the
79 latest round of mergers in the
80 communications industry and whether or not
81 those mergers are restraining competition.

82 b. The deregulation of telecommunications
83 services should be approached with extreme
84 care in order to protect the interests of the
85 consuming public.

86 c. No telecommunications service should
87 be deregulated without adequate proof that
88 sufficient competition exists. Every effort
89 must be made to ensure that the goal of
90 universal telecommunications service is not
91 jeopardized and that rural and urban

1 consumers are not subjected to prohibitive
2 rate increases.

3

4 **2. Infrastructure**

5 To serve the best interests of rural
6 communities of S.D., we encourage
7 investment in infrastructure to improve
8 telecommunication delivery systems in our
9 state.

10

11 **3. Rates**

12 The addition of new telecommunications
13 service providers may have helped to lower
14 rates, but it has also led to an increase in
15 reports of unscrupulous practices, such as
16 switching providers for consumers without
17 their knowledge or written approval. We
18 request that Congress and appropriate
19 regulatory agencies take whatever action is
20 necessary to protect the interests of
21 consumers and prosecute companies or
22 individuals found guilty of fraudulent acts.

23

24 **4. South Dakota Public Utilities**

25 **Commission (PUC)**

26 a. We believe that the PUC should be
27 provided with adequate personnel and
28 funding to ensure proper protection of the
29 interests of consumers.

30 b. The regulatory powers of the PUC
31 should not be tampered with unless it can be
32 clearly demonstrated that such action is in
33 the best interests of the people of S.D.

34 c. We strongly support continued
35 regulatory oversight of the
36 telecommunications industry by the PUC.

37 d. We urge the PUC to order that all
38 telephone exchanges in S.D. discontinue
39 zone rate charges in favor of an equal rate
40 for all rural customers.

41

42 **5. Universal Service Fund (USF)**

43 a. We support the continuation of the USF
44 for rural telecommunications cooperatives.

45 b. To serve high-cost areas with affordable,
46 state of the art telecommunication services,
47 we encourage the full funding of the USF.

48

49 **VII. ECONOMICS**

50

51 **A. Anti-Monopoly Policies**

52

53 1. We believe that monopolistic
54 concentration in the meat packing,
55 transportation, energy, and seed industries
56 has reduced competition to a point where
57 producers no longer have access to fair and
58 equitable markets.

59 2. We support a full federal investigation of
60 the effects of concentration in the
61 transportation industry, especially rail
62 transportation.

63 3. We support anti-trust action to increase
64 competition in the private sector of energy
65 industries.

66 4. We support implementation of
67 temporary moratorium on large agricultural
68 mergers. The moratorium is necessary to
69 provide Congress with time to review
70 current law and strengthen it as appropriate
71 to restore market competition for producers
72 and consumers.

73 5. We urge that a national conference be
74 held to include representatives of farmers,
75 ranchers, consumers and organized labor in
76 an effort to eliminate monopolistic practices
77 in the food industry.

78 6. We support legislation to prohibit
79 ownership or control of feedlots by meat
80 packing firms.

81 7. We oppose ownership of livestock by
82 packing firms except for the reason of
83 immediate slaughter.

84 8. We favor a full-scale congressional
85 investigation of unjustified industry spread
86 between producer and consumer prices.

87 9. We support passage of legislation that
88 would repeal the adverse impact of the U.S.
89 Supreme Court's decision in the Illinois
90 Brick Case and allow producers and

1 consumers to bring anti-trust actions
2 whether damages were direct or indirect.

3
4 **B. Federal Reserve Board**

5
6 The Federal Reserve Board should be reconstituted
7 to include representatives of agriculture,
8 small business and labor.

9
10 **C. Loans**

11
12 1. Feed grain loan rates should be increased
13 to better reflect their renewable energy
14 value.

15 2. Loan rates should be based on the cost of
16 production. The county base yields should
17 be updated.

18 3. We oppose the sale of federally-financed
19 loans at a discounted rate unless the
20 individual or entity affected has the right of
21 first refusal to purchase their loan at the
22 established discount rate.

23
24 **D. Fees and Licenses**

25
26 We urge Congress to immediately
27 investigate the imposition of excessive
28 technological fees assessed against farmers.

29
30 **E. National Debt**

31
32 Reforms in our inequitable tax structure are
33 essential if we are to reduce the national
34 debt.

35
36 **F. Producer Income**

37
38 We oppose any budgetary proposals that
39 would result in a direct or indirect loss of net
40 farm income to family farmers and ranchers.

41
42 **G. Rural Development**

43
44 1. We support economic development for
45 rural SD communities by adding value to
46 agriculture production by family farmers.

47 2. We support the S.D. Board of Economic
48 Development.

49 3. We believe that any program seriously
50 proposing to boost adding value to grain and
51 livestock production in S.D. must receive
52 interest rates that are at least comparable to
53 those available to businesses through the
54 Governor's Office of Economic
55 Development (GOED) Revolving Economic
56 Development and Initiative (REDI) Fund.
57 Interest rates of more than six percent are
58 unacceptable.

59 4. We support the expanded use of the
60 REDI Fund by S.D. family farmers and
61 ranchers. These changes also recognize that
62 rural people paid a disproportionate share of
63 the one-cent sales tax increase.

64 5. We urge greater use of the value-added
65 sub fund.

66 6. We support continued S.D. funding for
67 the Northern Crops Institute.

68 7. We recommend that revenues from state
69 taxes on endoparasitocides and
70 ectoparasitocides be designated for deposit in
71 a new fund dedicated to the expansion of
72 SDSU Animal Disease Research and
73 Diagnostic Lab.

74 8. We pledge our cooperation and support
75 for the legislative Rural Renewal Coalition.

76 9. We support establishment of venture
77 capital groups for producer-owned
78 businesses.

79 10. We support continued statewide efforts
80 to promote increases in state processing of
81 agricultural products. These efforts should
82 include cooperation with farmers, ranchers
83 and their organizations in promoting and
84 constructing cooperatively-owned
85 processing plants in S.D.

86 11. We support the establishment of
87 enterprise communities and empowerment
88 zones as a means of assisting development
89 in economically disadvantaged rural areas.

90 12. We continue to support the Beadle and
91 Spink Enterprise Community (BASEC) and

1 efforts of citizens in Day County and other
2 regions of the state.

3 13. We urge the appropriation of public and
4 private funds for the establishment of an
5 enterprise facilitation program. Facilitation
6 programs should be able to apply and
7 receive rural development funds.

8

9 **H. Taxation**

10 **1. Carbon Carrier Pipeline Tax**

11 We support a tax on carbon carrier pipelines
12 for S.D.

13

14 **2. Contractor's Excise Tax**

15 We urge repeal of the contractor's excise tax
16 and replaced with a corporate income tax.
17 S.D. is currently the only state in the union
18 to impose this form of pyramiding taxation.

19

20 **3. Excess-Profits Tax**

21 An excess-profits tax should be levied on
22 those corporations whose profits are clearly
23 out of line with reasonable rate of return on
24 invested capital.

25

26 **4. Federal Estate Tax**

27 We support a 35 percent estate tax after
28 exempting the first \$10 million.

29

30 **5. Income Tax**

31 a. We believe that personal and corporate
32 income taxes ought to be a part of a
33 balanced state tax structure. The goal of
34 reform should be a structure wherein state
35 and local tax revenues are raised
36 approximately one-third from property
37 taxes, one-third from sales taxes and one-
38 third from income taxes.

39 b. We support the federal income tax
40 deductibility of 100 percent of health
41 insurance premium and health care costs for
42 self-employed persons.

43 c. To relieve property taxes in S.D. and to
44 provide for a more equitable sharing of the
45 costs of education, we favor state enactment

46 of a graduated personal income tax and a
47 corporate profits tax.

48 d. A state income tax should be simple,
49 have a low administrative cost, be based on
50 net income from the federal income tax
51 form, with revenues going to education and
52 for real estate tax relief.

53

54 **6. Investment Tax Credit**

55 We urge that the investment tax credit be
56 reinstated at an incremental level beneficial
57 to family farmers and small businesses.

58

59 **7. Mineral Severance Taxes**

60 a. Mineral rights held by non-surface
61 owners should be made subject to a mineral
62 tax with revenues designated for purposes of
63 property tax relief to the surface owner.
64 Severed mineral rights have value and are
65 benefited from state and county roads.

66 b. South Dakota's non-renewable natural
67 resources are being severed from our state
68 and lost forever. We firmly believe that
69 those business firms engaged in this practice
70 must adequately compensate our state for
71 severed resources.

72

73 **8. Motor Fuel Taxes**

74 a. We continue our long-term support for
75 an exemption from the state gas tax at the
76 time of delivery for non-highway users.

77 b. We recognize that a certain portion of
78 gas tax revenue is directly attributable to
79 boating. Expenditure of these revenues
80 should be confined to the construction or
81 enhancement of public facilities.

82 c. We oppose any legislation authorizing
83 enactment of city gas taxes.

84 d. We oppose any new increase in fuel tax
85 for roads without an adequate amount of the
86 proceeds going to counties and townships.

87 e. We encourage any license fee increase
88 for vehicles over 5 years old to be retained
89 in the county.

90

91

1 **9. Property Taxes**

2 a. S.D.'s over-reliance on property taxes
3 for funding primary and secondary
4 education has placed an unfair burden on
5 agriculture and contributed to the economic
6 depression that confronts many rural
7 communities.

8 b. To achieve fairness and equality, the
9 assessments on agriculture land should be
10 based on the capability to produce, land use,
11 terrain, climate, location, soil type, and
12 actual use.

13 c. We continue to support efforts to
14 establish limitations in future property tax
15 increases.

16 d. We urge a full review of recent major
17 reductions in valuations and assessments for
18 centrally-assessed property including that
19 which is owned by utilities. These
20 reductions have shifted an even greater
21 property tax burden onto agricultural, other
22 business and residential property.

23 e. We urge the state legislature to rewrite
24 policy directing the 25 percent property tax
25 reduction to South Dakotans most in need of
26 property tax relief. Specifically, we suggest
27 the establishment of a homestead exemption.

28 f. We oppose any action to reinstitute the
29 personal property tax.

30 g. Federal and state government and Indian
31 lands should be required to pay an amount in
32 lieu of taxes equal to the amount of real
33 estate taxes paid on similar private lands in
34 each county.

35 h. We support a sellers' fee assessed on
36 property sales to be distributed on a local
37 level.

38 i. We are opposed to frontage roadway
39 assessment in rural areas.

40 j. We oppose a shift in capital outlay funds
41 to general funds for education.

42

43 **10. Sales Tax**

44 a. We urge that the deductibility of state
45 sales taxes be restored to the federal tax
46 code.

47 b. We are opposed to the imposition of a
48 national value-added, general sales tax,
49 manufacturer's tax, or any other similar tax.

50 c. We are opposed to the sales tax monthly
51 remittance procedures presently in existence
52 due to the extra burden that has been placed
53 on small businesses.

54 d. We favor legislation that will eliminate
55 the state sales tax on food, used agricultural
56 machinery, and general farm repairs.

57 e. The spread of the city sales tax has made
58 rural people victims of taxation without
59 representation. We regard the city sales tax
60 as a regressive, unfair and unacceptable
61 means of funding local property tax relief.
62 We continue to oppose all city sales taxes
63 unless purchases by non-resident, rural
64 citizens can be exempted.

65 f. We oppose any permissive legislation
66 authorizing enactment of county sales taxes.

67 g. We strongly oppose any expansion of
68 state sales and use taxes that do not include
69 exemptions for grocery store food and
70 clothing, and is not specifically earmarked
71 for education.

72 h. We support the reinstatement of sales tax
73 exemptions for personal property sold at
74 auction, newspaper sales and subscriptions,
75 cattle semen, amateur sports officiating,
76 veterinary services, state and county fair
77 parking and the exchange of processed for
78 raw agricultural products.

79

80 **11. Tax Code**

81 a. We support eliminating some unjustified
82 loopholes that allow wealthy individuals and
83 corporations to escape their fair share of the
84 federal tax load.

85 b. Income averaging is a necessary tax
86 provision for agriculture and other
87 businesses characterized by instability of
88 economic return. Income averaging should
89 continue as an element of federal tax policy.

90 c. Every effort should be made to restore
91 an enhanced degree of progressivity to the
92 tax code by increasing the number of

1 brackets and increasing the maximum tax
2 rate for the wealthy.

3 d. Foundations and churches should be
4 taxed while engaging in commercial, profit-
5 making activities.

6 e. We believe in equitable tax treatment for
7 all businesses. We, therefore, support the
8 right of state governments to collect sales
9 taxes on Internet and catalog sales.

10 f. Until we have equitable tax treatment for
11 all retail businesses, we favor imposition of
12 state sales taxes on Internet and catalog
13 sales.

14 g. Alien owners of U.S. farmland and other
15 property should be subject to the same taxes
16 as domestic owners.

17 18 **12. Water Tax**

19 a. We oppose any state tax on water use
20 and/or water permits.

21 b. We urge repeal of state statutes requiring
22 fees for water rights permit on land
23 developed for water spreading to ensure that
24 its population will always have safe, clean
25 water for human and livestock use.

26 27 **13. Tax Freezes**

28 We urge the legislature to repeal all tax
29 freezes on schools, counties, and townships.
30 Local governments have more of an
31 understanding of their needs rather than the
32 legislators of the state.

33 34 **VIII. PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

35 36 **A. Agricultural Practices**

37 38 **1. Corporate Farming**

39 We believe that Congress should enact
40 legislation requiring investor-owned, non-
41 family farm corporations to divest their
42 holdings in agricultural properties. We call
43 on the USDA and the DOJ to conduct a full
44 and complete study of the extent to which
45 outright corporate ownership and contract
46 production have limited the market access of

47 independent family farmers. Once the facts
48 have been determined, we call upon
49 Congress to pursue all appropriate remedies.

50 51 **2. Land Ownership**

52 a. We believe that continued ownership
53 and control of U.S. agricultural land by
54 family farmers and ranchers is vital to the
55 moral and economic welfare of this nation.
56 We strongly support constitutional
57 restrictions on non-family farm or ranch
58 corporate ownership of agricultural land and
59 livestock. We urge like-minded
60 organizations to continue regional and
61 national cooperation to enact or strengthen
62 anti-corporate farm legislation.

63 b. We continue to support existing
64 statutory restrictions that limit the ownership
65 of agricultural land by individual, non-
66 resident aliens to 160 acres.

67 c. We urge Congress to prohibit the sale of
68 farmland in the FSA inventory to non-
69 resident foreign investors.

70 d. We support either of the following: a
71 buffer of 6 foot to prevent livestock
72 enticement or the nullification of liability for
73 the livestock producer for any trespassing
74 damages on non-buffered fence lines.

75 76 **3. Sustainable Agriculture**

77 We support farm bill provisions making
78 agriculture more sustainable and productive.

79 80 **B. Consumer Protection**

81
82 1. We favor strengthening the S.D.
83 Division of Consumer Protection through
84 better funding and adequate staffing.

85 2. We support state legislation that addresses
86 excessive interest on payday loans in South
87 Dakota

88 3. We reject the sale of private browser
89 history under the Browser Act of 2017 and
90 request its repeal.

1 **C. Corporations**

2
3 1. We support legislation to prohibit
4 corporations from developing or selling seed
5 that contains a terminator gene and, thus,
6 cannot reproduce.

7 2. We denounce all actions and
8 governments which promote the welfare of
9 multi-national corporations and holders of
10 extreme wealth at the expense of the
11 American people.

12
13 **D. Drug Abuse**

14
15 1. We demand stricter penalties for those
16 convicted of selling “hard” and “dangerous”
17 drugs. [e.g. 15-year minimum sentences
18 with no parole for 10 years].

19 2. We advocate further education on the
20 problem of drug abuse.

21 3. Drug users volunteering to overcome
22 their drug problems should be able to obtain
23 help from proper organizations without
24 incurring police records.

25
26 **E. Gambling**

27
28 1. We oppose further increases in bet limits
29 or the number of slot machines or video
30 lottery machines allowed in each
31 establishment.

32 2. The state’s share of gambling revenue
33 should be increased and used for property
34 tax relief only.

35 3. We advocate an “off the top” percentage
36 from state- and federally-sanctioned
37 gambling. These funds should be earmarked
38 for law enforcement and social problems
39 attributed to the gambling industry.

40 4. All tribal gambling casinos must be
41 within the borders of a reservation and on
42 tribally owned land.

43 5. We encourage the state of S.D. to
44 conduct a study to determine the social costs
45 of gambling in our state.

46

47 **F. Governmental Reform**

48
49 **1. Campaign Finance**

50 a. We support comprehensive campaign
51 finance reform including:

52 i. Presidential candidates should
53 continue to receive matching federal funds
54 for campaign expenses. Similar financial
55 assistance should also be provided to
56 candidates for the U.S. House of
57 Representatives and U.S. Senate.

58 ii. Contributions from individuals
59 should be limited to \$1,000 per candidate.
60 Contributions by each Political Action
61 Committee (PAC) should be limited to
62 \$5,000 per candidate

63 iii. Caps should be instituted on total
64 campaign spending.

65 iv. All types of campaign contributions
66 should be fully reported.

67 v. We support eventual shift to public
68 financing and elimination of PACs.

69 b. We urge ethics legislation at the state
70 level that would result in more in depth
71 investigation of where campaign funds
72 originate and how they are used.

73 c. We recommend legislation to place
74 reasonable limits on campaign spending and
75 the length of campaigns. Elimination of soft
76 money contributions should be a top
77 priority.

78 d. We support a progressive sales tax on
79 campaign spending based on what the
80 elected office holder receives for that office.
81 Initiatives and referendums are based on
82 what SD voters contribute.

83 e. We are opposed to the ruling by the U.S.
84 Supreme Court that makes it possible for a
85 corporation to be considered as an
86 “individual” regarding campaign
87 contributions.

88

89 **2. Civil Liberties**

90 a. It shall be our purpose to seek to
91 preserve and broaden the civil liberties and
92 rights of all the people. The demands of the

1 Declaration of Independence and the
2 safeguards guaranteed to the people by the
3 Constitution and its Bill of Rights and
4 subsequent amendments must be made a
5 code of conduct for our nation.

6 b. We shall oppose those persons or forces
7 which seek to abridge, abrogate, or eliminate
8 any of our civil rights and liberties.

9

10 **3. Discrimination**

11 We shall continue to seek as individuals and
12 as an organization to remove every
13 remaining vestige of discrimination in any
14 government agency whenever and wherever
15 it may arise.

16

17 **4. Elected Officials**

18 a. We support legislation requiring
19 complete disclosure of income and sources
20 of income by legislators and other elected
21 public officials.

22 b. We oppose any merger of constitutional
23 offices.

24

25 **5. Elections**

26 a. All electronic voting machines shall
27 have a paper record to verify the votes.

28 b. Having a complete and accurate vote
29 count is more important than having a count
30 deadline.

31 c. We urge that no unnecessary restrictions
32 be placed on voter registration or the right of
33 citizens to vote by absentee ballot.

34 d. We urge strong enforcement of the
35 Voting Rights Act.

36 e. We oppose any actions to increase the
37 number of signatures required to initiate or
38 refer a law.

39 f. Recent rule changes regarding
40 circulation and signing of initiative,
41 referendum and candidate petitions
42 complicate the process and discourage
43 participation by citizens. We urge repeal of
44 rules requiring anything more than printing
45 of name, signature, address or box number
46 and date of signing.

47 g. We favor legislation to require full
48 disclosure of federal tax returns by
49 candidates for state constitutional offices
50 and the state Legislature at least two months
51 before the general election.

52 h. We support whatever constitutional or
53 other action is necessary to restore the right
54 of citizens to initiate or refer measures that
55 include state revenue.

56 i. We oppose any effort to reduce the
57 required percentage of voter approval in
58 local bond issue elections.

59 j. We support keeping all local voting rolls,
60 including names, addresses, voting records,
61 social security numbers, from becoming
62 public record.

63

64 **6. Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA)**

65 We support any efforts to bring substantive
66 reform to the EAJA.

67

68 **7. Line Item Veto**

69 We oppose the line item veto.

70

71 **8. S.D. State Legislature**

72 a. We are opposed to changing the
73 legislature to a unicameral or single-house
74 body.

75 b. We support legislation to elect state
76 senators for a four-year term.

77 c. We support some form of compensation
78 to legislators performing legislative related
79 duties on weekends and when the
80 Legislature is not actually in session.

81 d. We support repeal of the so-called S.D.
82 'gag law.' Under the guise of preserving
83 confidentiality, this legislation has allowed
84 government to conceal the public's business
85 from the public.

86 e. We support establishing a non-partisan
87 redistricting body and single member house
88 districts statewide.

89 f. We support legislation requiring all
90 registered lobbyists to fully report all fees
91 and compensation which they receive for
92 their legislative activity.

1 **9. State Agencies**

2 a. We ask that the tax advocate position in
3 state government be taken away from the
4 S.D. Department of Revenue and be placed
5 under the S.D. Department of Legislative
6 Audit.

7 b. We urge that all state-purchased vehicles
8 and equipment be manufactured in the U.S.

9
10 **10. Tort Law**

11 We strongly support tort reform.

12
13 **G. Health Care**

14
15 1. We support a comprehensive, universal,
16 national, prepaid health care and medical
17 facilities insurance program. This program
18 should enable every citizen to receive fully
19 adequate medical, dental, hospital,
20 chiropractic and other health care services,
21 including treatment for alcoholism, drug
22 addiction, mental illness, and prescription
23 drugs. This program should also include
24 preventative health care services.

25 2. We recommend a careful study of health
26 care systems in other states and nations.

27 3. We support the single payer system.

28 4. We support hospice care for the
29 terminally ill.

30 5. We continue to support the “division of
31 assets” concept.

32 6. We support assisted living and
33 minimum-care homes for those people who
34 do not require the care of nursing homes.

35 7. It has been proven that preventative
36 health care can reduce the overall cost of the
37 health care system. Insurers should be
38 required to cover the full cost of regular
39 check-ups.

40 8. We support the inclusion of reasonable
41 chiropractic care in any state healthcare
42 plan.

43 9. We support an expansion of a risk pool
44 for uninsurable South Dakotans. We view
45 this as a necessary step toward enactment of

46 a comprehensive, universal state health care
47 reform program.

48 10. We urge that any national or state health
49 reform plans maintain rural access and cost
50 containment as important priorities.

51 11. We support legislation that would allow
52 American pharmacists and distributors to
53 import prescription drugs approved by the
54 FDA and sell them at more affordable
55 prices.

56 12. We urge the U.S. government and health
57 care providers to negotiate with drug
58 manufacturers to make prescription drug
59 prices more in line with those that are
60 available in other countries.

61 13. We urge substantially increased federal
62 appropriations for research on all major
63 diseases and for study of prevention and
64 effective treatment of mental illness.

65 14. We support federal legislation aimed at
66 providing equal coverage of Medicare
67 reimbursement procedures in order that vital
68 rural medical facilities may survive.

69 15. We support 100 percent deductibility for
70 health insurance premiums to include all
71 health care costs.

72 16. We demand that Congress limit the
73 ability of health insurance companies to
74 dictate length of stay or possible hospital
75 procedures.

76 17. We support a patient’s right to choose
77 their medical provider.

78 18. We support elimination of
79 discriminatory pricing of prescription drugs.

80 19. The definition of “group” should be
81 expanded to make group policies available
82 to all people.

83
84 **H. Humanitarian Aid**

85
86 We recognize that children constitute our
87 greatest asset and we support nutritional,
88 educational and financial assistance
89 programs targeted to improving the current
90 welfare and future opportunities for all
91 children.

1 **I. Medicaid and Medicare**

2
3 1. We support larger reimbursements from
4 our state for Medicaid residents of long-term
5 care facilities.

6 2. We regard the method of classifying
7 Medicare patients under the Diagnostic
8 Related Groups (DRG) policy as an insult to
9 our older citizens. We recognize the
10 necessity of controlling increases in
11 Medicare and other health care costs, but a
12 policy that forces hospitals to discharge
13 Medicare patients once their Medicare
14 eligibility has run out is wrong. Patients in
15 need of further medical care should be
16 allowed to remain in the hospital with
17 expenses paid through Medicare
18 supplemental insurance or in cash.

19 3. We recommend that the time period for
20 changing the medications or prices paid by
21 insurance companies and the time period for
22 an individual to change an insurance carrier
23 shall be the same.

24
25 **J. Nutrition**

26
27 1. We deplore reductions in domestic food
28 utilization and distribution programs such as
29 the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
30 Program (SNAP), school lunches, Woman,
31 Infants and Children (WIC) programs,
32 elderly nutrition programs, and summer food
33 service programs, which assist low-income
34 people in obtaining sufficient food to meet
35 their nutritional needs.

36 2. We call upon the administration to
37 expand the school milk and school lunch
38 programs to every school child. Reduction
39 of surpluses and improved child nutrition
40 would be advanced by offering school
41 children additional cartons of milk.

42 3. Federal agencies should be prohibited
43 from using imported commodities in school
44 lunch and other organization programs.

45 4. We oppose federally-mandated nutrition
46 standards for school lunches that replace

47 long accepted health standards with menu
48 choices that reduce or eliminate meat and
49 dairy products.

50 5. Federally-owned surplus commodities
51 should be utilized in the school lunch and
52 summer food service programs.

53 6. We feel the USDA should use all
54 authorities it has, including donations, to
55 dispense of any excess commodities to those
56 people, both domestic and worldwide, who
57 are in need.

58
59 **K. Occupational Safety and Health**
60 **Administration (OSHA)**

61
62 We endorse the concept of the federal
63 OSHA because of the importance of
64 providing safe and healthful working
65 conditions. Due process of law must be
66 guaranteed in determining guilt and
67 assessing fines.

68
69 **L. Retirement System**

70
71 1. We ask that the present retirement
72 system for elected officials [president, vice
73 president and Congress] be made more
74 equitable within the level of the Social
75 Security formula.

76 2. We encourage individual, personal
77 retirement plans.

78
79 **M. Seniors**

80
81 We advocate the continuation and expansion
82 of experience works service, visiting
83 neighbor, mini-bus, senior nutrition, meals-
84 on-wheels and other programs to enable
85 senior citizens to retain their independence.

86
87 **N. Social Security**

88
89 1. We believe in a strong Social Security
90 system in the U.S. We recommend that:

91 a. Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)
92 must be recalculated to include real-world

1 expenses. Simply pinning COLA to the rate
2 of inflation is an inefficient and detrimental
3 method; necessities such as food, fuel,
4 prescription medication, health care, and
5 insurance must be included.

6 b. Some provision should be made to
7 provide Social Security benefits for widows
8 or widowers who are not now eligible but
9 need some assistance.

10 c. Dependents of beneficiaries should
11 receive support through four years of
12 college.

13 d. Aid to disabled persons between the ages
14 of 18 and 55 should not be contingent upon
15 the economic status of the spouse, parents or
16 other relatives.

17 e. For purposes of Social Security benefits,
18 we recommend the same formula be used to
19 determine the amount of benefits regardless
20 of the year of birth. Discrimination against
21 so-called "notch people" should be
22 abolished. A reasonable limit should be
23 placed on the earned and unearned income
24 of retired persons or widows with dependent
25 children.

26 2. We urge the Social Security
27 Administration (SSA) to determine the
28 number of farm women who are not covered
29 by Social Security. We also urge the SSA
30 and NFU to dispense information on how
31 these farm women may qualify for coverage
32 under Social Security.

33 3. We recommend that federal matching
34 funds, equal to the annual contributions by
35 and on behalf of individuals, be appropriated
36 to the Social Security Fund. Social Security
37 taxes should be paid on unearned as well as
38 earned income with Social Security
39 payments being the only exception.

40 4. We oppose the use of Social Security
41 funds for purposes other than Social
42 Security benefits, such as private plans.

43 5. We recommend that married couples
44 filing joint income tax returns shall have
45 their Social Security payments pooled,
46 regardless of the source of income from

47 which the payment is derived. This is,
48 however, not to exceed the limitations now
49 in effect.

51 **O. South Dakota Public Broadcasting** 52 **(SDPB)**

53
54 1. Reductions in federal and state funding
55 threaten the survival of quality radio and
56 television programming that we have come
57 to expect from SDPB.

58 2. We support efforts to restore funding for
59 these educational programs.

60 3. We particularly support continuation of
61 agriculturally oriented programming.

62

63 **P. Transportation**

64

65 **1. Highways**

66 a. We urge the federal government to
67 allocate sufficient funds for highway
68 construction and maintenance in S.D.

69 b. We strongly oppose any proposals to
70 lessen the historical congressional
71 commitments for funding to support rural
72 America's secondary and farm-to-market
73 highway systems.

74 c. We oppose any further increase in
75 federal motor fuel taxes that is not
76 specifically targeted at improving and
77 maintaining the nation's transportation
78 system.

79 d. We urge continued cooperation to
80 promote highway safety in order to reduce
81 the present death toll from accidents.

82 e. All state highway intersections should
83 have turning lanes installed for the safety of
84 motorists.

85 f. Grain combines often must move on
86 state highways on weekends during peak
87 harvest season and should be granted this
88 privilege where necessary.

89 g. We urge the S.D. Department of
90 Transportation (SDDOT) to make a greater
91 effort to ensure the safety of rural S.D. by
92 having well-lit state highway intersections.

1 h. An adequate highway system, including
2 farm-to-market roads, is essential to the
3 economic health of rural S.D.

4 i. We are opposed to any change in federal
5 highway funding which would eliminate aid
6 for secondary roads and bridge repair. Such
7 a change would be grossly unfair to rural
8 states like S.D. which have a
9 disproportionately large amount of
10 secondary highway mileage.

11 j. All efforts should be made to reduce
12 unnecessary damage to S.D. highways and
13 secondary roads. However, we strongly
14 oppose any effort to allow law enforcement
15 officials to obtain elevator weight tickets
16 without a search warrant and to retroactively
17 charge truckers with weight violations. Any
18 legislation to alter load limits or legal trailer
19 length should include provisions to allow
20 current operators a sufficient grace period to
21 comply with the law.

22

23 **2. Railroads**

24 a. We continue to support the S.D. State
25 Rail Authority and efforts to preserve and
26 rebuild all aspects of our rail system. Local
27 transportation districts should receive all
28 possible assistance from state and federal
29 governments.

30 b. We support the concept of cooperative
31 or other local ownership of railroad lines.

32 c. The state of S.D. should consult with
33 surrounding states so that efforts to restore
34 or preserve rail service can be coordinated
35 wherever possible.

36 d. Currently, grain elevators and other
37 businesses located on the state-owned
38 railroad property which depend on rail
39 service for their business are required to
40 repair tracks on sidings at their own
41 expense, even though they have no equity or
42 ownership in the tracks or right-of-way
43 property. We support changes in state law
44 that would allow businesses using the tracks
45 to reimburse the state for repairs over a
46 reasonable period of time.

47 e. Shippers captive to a single rail line
48 should be protected from excessive rates and
49 healthy competition among railroads should
50 be encouraged.

51 f. We urge legislation allowing adjoining
52 landowners to initiate a process of
53 abandoned railroad right-of-way to convert
54 to adjoining land.

55 g. Landowners adjoining abandoned
56 railroad lines should have first right of
57 refusal to purchase the property.

58 h. We urge legislation requiring
59 reflectorizing of the sides of railroad cars.
60 Lights on business structures should be
61 regulated so they do not interfere with
62 traffic.

63

64 **Q. U.S. Postal Service (USPS)**

65

66 1. We are strongly opposed to any proposal
67 which would result in the sale or transfer of
68 the USPS to private business. The USPS
69 was established as a national responsibility
70 more than 200 years ago and that is what it
71 should remain.

72 2. We deplore USPS cutbacks in service in
73 rural areas.

74 3. We oppose any further closings of post
75 offices, processing centers and reductions in
76 service to rural people.

77 4. We believe that postal service is a right
78 and not a privilege. We believe, therefore,
79 that the USPS should not be required by law
80 to be a self-supporting institution, especially
81 if that status results in oppressive increases
82 in postal rates and reduction of services.

83 5. We support allowing the USPS to fund
84 its pension similarly to private enterprise.

85

86 **R. Veterans**

87

88 1. The nation must honor all promises of
89 rights and benefits made to veterans.

90 2. We especially advocate the continued
91 availability of medical services for all
92 honorably discharged veterans through the

1 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
2 hospitals.

3 3. We ask that the burial expense for all
4 veterans be reinstated.

5 4. Provision of services should not be
6 contingent on economic status of the
7 veteran.

8 5. We oppose the shifting of guaranteed
9 veterans' home loans from one bank to
10 another to facilitate certain banks getting out
11 of such loans in agricultural communities.

12 6. We encourage all nursing homes to have
13 the right to admit veterans with the same
14 benefits they have at a VA hospital.

15

16 **S. Working People**

17

18 1. We support legislation that allows all
19 people to earn a living wage.

20 2. It is our belief there should be
21 communication between agriculture and
22 labor on matters of vital interest to both.

23 3. We support the rights of youth to work
24 and participate in all agricultural activities.

25 4. We believe in a strong federal
26 immigration policy, but do not support the
27 hiring of illegal workers.

28 5. We believe in a guest worker program
29 that supports the hiring of reliable
30 agricultural workers. This policy should be a
31 coherent, viable, effective worker program.

32 6. We support reforms to the visa system to
33 make it responsive to the needs of our
34 economy and businesses, with a focus on
35 public safety as well as protecting the
36 interests of the workers.

37 7. We believe that serious attention should
38 be given to the proposal to require worker's
39 compensation for hired farm workers and
40 that any such law should provide for
41 exemptions for short-term or seasonal farm
42 workers.

43 8. We oppose any undue state burdens that
44 may inhibit the ability for the agricultural
45 industry to employ an adequate work force.

46

47 **IX. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

48

49 **A. Aid**

50

51 1. Foreign aid has been of great assistance
52 to emerging democracies and other
53 underprivileged nations. Provision of
54 foreign aid must never be contingent upon a
55 country's acceptance of private American
56 investment capital. U.S. financial aid should
57 be used to buy products made in the U.S.
58 when possible.

59 2. Farmer-to-farmer programs, Public Law
60 480 and other international assistance
61 programs have had positive benefits around
62 the world. We support necessary
63 improvements in their delivery system, but
64 oppose termination.

65 3. Employee Education Program (EEP)
66 assistance ought to be retargeted toward
67 movement of value-added rather than raw
68 agricultural products.

69 4. We advocate the promotion of economic
70 and agricultural development in food-
71 deficient countries, and we ask for expanded
72 use of the long-term loan authority of the
73 Food for Peace Act.

74 5. We support the international school
75 lunch program as proposed by former
76 Senators George McGovern and Robert
77 Dole. American food and fiber programs
78 must not be used as foreign policy weapons.

79

80 **B. Embargos**

81

82 Agricultural products should be exempt
83 from all embargoes.

84

85 **C. Imports**

86

87 1. We demand that all agricultural products
88 imported to this country be required to meet
89 the same standards of sanitation required of
90 American agricultural products and labeled
91 as to point of origin. We are especially
92 concerned about lapses that have allowed

1 foreign beef to enter the U.S. through
2 Canada or Mexico with inadequate or no
3 inspection. We strongly oppose new USDA
4 food safety provisions, which would transfer
5 responsibility for meat inspections to
6 individual meat packers.

7 2. We urge the USDA and all relevant
8 federal agencies to make every effort to
9 assure that Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)
10 and BSE are kept out of the U.S. These
11 efforts should include a ban on the
12 importation of all animal products from
13 nations or regions that are not certified free
14 of these diseases.

15 3. We oppose the rule allowing live
16 animals over the age of 30 months to be
17 imported for slaughter and breeding in the
18 U.S.

19 4. Agriculture products currently imported
20 into the U.S. have caused great economic
21 loss to family-sized producers. Therefore,
22 we support an import fee that would
23 neutralize subsidies paid by foreign
24 governments to their producers.

25 **D. Military Armaments**

26 We support continuation of arms control
27 negotiations between all nations.

28 **E. Peace Corps**

29 We urge the continuation and expansion of
30 the Peace Corps program.

31 **F. Trade Negotiations**

32
33 1. We oppose any kind of “Trade
34 Promotion Authority” legislation for free-
35 trade agreements, and urge Congress to vote
36 on each package. In order for these trade
37 agreements to be fair, factors such as labor
38 standards, growing practices, differing
39 currency exchange rates and food safety
40 regulations must be taken into account. In
41 any free-trade agreement negotiation, the

42 U.S. Representatives should create a
43 commodity-by-commodity breakdown of
44 the effect that the agreement will have on
45 the U.S. agriculture industry.

46 2. We respect all nations’ sovereignty and
47 food policies and thus urge open dialogue,
48 cooperation and understanding in trade
49 negotiations relating to biotechnology.

50 **G. United Nations (UN)**

51 1. We endorse the original concept behind
52 the UN. We believe that it must continue to
53 serve as a forum for countries of the world
54 to seek peaceful relations with each other.
55 The UN or any other world court should
56 never take precedence over or be superior to
57 the Constitution of the U.S. or the Bill of
58 Rights.

59 2. We support the World Food Program of
60 the Food and Agriculture Organization
61 (FAO), and we ask that technical assistance
62 for various UN programs be expanded.

63 3. We support the recognition and activities
64 of World Food Day. International food
65 security would be enhanced by the
66 establishment of a UN Strategic Grain
67 Reserve. This reserve should be financed by
68 member nations according to their ability to
69 pay and located in the major grain producing
70 nations. The reserve should be sufficient to
71 meet expected international emergencies.

72 **X. APPENDIX**

73 **A. Membership**

74 1. A large membership of family farmers
75 and ranchers is the base of a strong,
76 respected and influential SDFU. Among the
77 benefits of membership in the Farmers
78 Union are:

79 a. The right to full participation in
80 activities and policy-making decisions and
81 the right to election as an officer or delegate
82 to state and national conventions.

1 b. Participation in the Farmers Union youth
2 and other educational activities and
3 conferences.
4 c. A subscription to the South Dakota
5 Union Farmer, the official publication of the
6 state organization.
7 d. We encourage all Farmers Union
8 Insurance policy holders to become
9 members and for members to buy Farmers
10 Union Insurance.
11 e. Eligibility for membership in the
12 Traveler's Motor Club
13 f. Membership incentive programs for
14 transportation and lodging to the NFU
15 Convention. We encourage county
16 organizations to actively seek associate
17 members (non-voting).
18 2. All local, county and district Farmers
19 Union organizations should have a full set of
20 active action officials. Active officers
21 provide greater membership participation
22 and education. They should establish good
23 public relations with local newspapers,
24 coordinate membership drives and turn in
25 financial reports at the end of the fiscal year.
26 3. We encourage continued joint efforts with
27 all farm organizations.
28 4. We will furnish transportation for one
29 director or manager of a cooperative with
30 membership dues checkoff, to attend the
31 National Farmers Union Convention. It is
32 requested that the participant make a report
33 at the cooperative's annual meeting.
34 5. We urge the greater use of county and
35 district legislative and cooperative directors.
36 Candidates for all officer positions,
37 delegates and alternate delegates shall
38 introduce themselves from the rostrum of
39 the state convention before the election.
40 6. We urge that all members wear
41 identification badges representative of
42 SDFU while attending functions where
43 Farmers Union is involved.
44 7. We urge our board of directors to
45 schedule an annual Farmers Union state
46 picnic during the State Fair.

47 8. We urge members to inform the State
48 Office of their email addresses.
49 9. We urge members and interested parties
50 to utilize the SDFU and NFU websites and
51 the websites of its affiliated organizations
52 such as the SDFU Foundation and the SDFU
53 Insurance Agency.
54

55 **B. Education**

56 1. The education of Farmers Union members
57 is an ongoing project. We recommend that
58 this educational program include seminars
59 for our young adults and stress the
60 importance of district education directors.
61 Education directors must help to maintain
62 the quality and philosophy of the Farmers
63 Union organization. Major emphasis should
64 also be placed on a comprehensive adult
65 education program for Farmers Union
66 families to include coordination with
67 vocational agricultural instructors,
68 cooperative leaders and agriculturally
69 oriented institutions of higher learning.
70 2. We advocate youth classes in every
71 Farmers Union local and county
72 organization. We recognize the value of
73 young Farmers Union members participating
74 in and working with the entire Farmers
75 Union organization. The participation of all
76 must be a goal of the youth program.
77 3. We recommend that the Education
78 Department continue the awards for
79 completion of activities approved by the
80 Education Council and stated in the
81 handbook.
82 4. We recommend that one or more state
83 Senior Youth Camps be held each year. We
84 urge every county and district Farmers
85 Union to participate in a youth camp to
86 acquaint more young people with Farmers
87 Union work.
88 5. We recommend that a Youth Advisory
89 Council be elected at each state Senior
90 Youth Camp.

1 6. We recommend that the SDFU Education
2 Department coordinate incentive tours for
3 Farmers Union youth.

4 7. We support the S.D. Ag in the Classroom
5 program and encourage Farmers Union
6 education leaders to become involved in
7 farm safety training programs.

8 8. We support the creation of collegiate
9 Farmers Union groups. We also encourage
10 collegiate Farmers Union groups to urge the
11 universities that they attend to offer classes
12 and/or majors pertaining to cooperatives,
13 rural life, or farm management and
14 marketing as stated in state issues H
15 subsection K.

16 9. We recommend that the SDFU Education
17 Department provide seminars for young
18 adults to explore various production and
19 value-added agriculture opportunities.

20

21 **C. Cooperatives**

22 1. Farmer- and patron-owned cooperatives
23 play an important role as a stabilizing force
24 in our economic life and in the promotion of
25 the democratic process through their
26 emphasis on the Rochdale Cooperative
27 Principles.

28 2. Every member of the Farmers Union is
29 strongly urged to buy every possible supply,
30 sell all products and buy all their insurance
31 products and other services from Farmers
32 Union affiliated businesses, organizations
33 and cooperatives (e.g. cable TV.).

34 3. Farmers Union local, county and district
35 organizations need to establish and maintain
36 strong communications, participation,
37 patronage, and membership with local
38 cooperatives' boards of directors, managers,
39 and employees; and local and district
40 Farmers Union Insurance personnel.

41 4. We should continue to take a prominent
42 position of leadership in bringing the
43 cooperative story to the public.

44 5. Farmers Union affiliated cooperatives and
45 other farmer-owned cooperatives are

46 encouraged to pay the full five [5%] per cent
47 educational funds to Farmers Union.

48 6. SDFU's contributions toward
49 strengthening the economic position of all of
50 agriculture are enhanced by the support of
51 farmer cooperatives through membership
52 checkoffs.

53 7. We urge CHS Inc. cooperatives to
54 aggressively seek ways to keep locally-
55 owned cooperatives open to serve the farmer
56 patron.

57 8. We encourage women, Native Americans
58 and other minorities to become members of,
59 and directors of, cooperatives.

60

61 **D. Legislation**

62 1. Effective legislative activity is an
63 essential part of the overall Farmers Union
64 effort to preserve and strengthen our family
65 farm and ranch system. We urge all Farmers
66 Union members to become active
67 participants in legislative activity at the
68 national, state and county levels.

69 2. Farmers Union organizations and
70 members are strongly encouraged to take
71 part in the Rural Lobbyist Program at the
72 state level during legislative session.

73 3. The SDFU Rural Lobbyist is a valuable
74 tool when fully utilized by rural lobbyists.

75 4. We support the continuation of the
76 Farmers Union Washington, D.C., Fly-In
77 lobbying efforts conducted on behalf of
78 family farmers and ranchers. We ask that
79 our national and state organizations continue
80 to publish voting records of members of
81 Congress and our state legislature.

82 5. All Farmers Union officers and members
83 are encouraged to subscribe to and read
84 NFU News.

85

86 **E. Foundation**

87 1. We encourage all members to support the
88 endowment strengthening the foundation; a
89 nonprofit organization raising funds for
90 educating young minds, building new

1 leadership and creating new opportunities
2 for economic growth in rural S.D.

3 2. We endorse the various approved
4 scholarship programs within the Farmers
5 Union for college education and vocational
6 training.

7
8 **F. Long-Range Farm Policy – The Parity**
9 **of Income Plan**

10 1. When the concept of parity was first
11 introduced in agricultural law in 1936, the
12 goal of national farm policy was to provide
13 farm families a net income that was on par
14 with the net income of non-farm families to
15 ensure that producers had the same
16 purchasing power as their urban neighbors.
17 The 1910-14 base was selected as the
18 appropriate economic period to achieve the
19 goal of income parity.

20 2. The failure of farm programs to provide a
21 parity of income for family farmers is a
22 violation of the social contract between
23 family farmers and consumers in which
24 farmers are responsible for production of a
25 dependable supply of food and fiber in
26 return for a parity of income with the rest of
27 our society.

28 3. To return to the principle of parity of
29 income, federal farm policies must provide
30 agricultural incentive payments to family
31 farmers to make up the difference between
32 commodity prices in the marketplace and
33 full parity for all agricultural commodities.
34 These payments should be made to all
35 family farmers based on their units of
36 production to raise the return on their labor
37 and management to the national median
38 family income. Such payments must be
39 strictly limited to family farm operators
40 through a maximum payment level that
41 would provide full-time family farm
42 operators a parity of net income.

43 4. The payments would be based on a per-
44 unit rate for the commodities produced by
45 the family farm to make up the difference, if
46 any, between prices received and the parity

47 price of each commodity. The volume of
48 commodities for which each farm family
49 would be eligible to receive payments would
50 be computed by the difference between the
51 cost of production [excluding labor and
52 management returns] and parity. This fair
53 margin of return would be divided into the
54 national median family income level to
55 determine the maximum number of units of
56 production for which payments could be
57 made.

58 5. Payments would be made in the order of
59 the commodities which had the least
60 difference between prices received and
61 parity to those commodities which had the
62 largest difference until the goal of income
63 parity is reached through a maximum
64 number of eligible units of production for
65 that farm.

66 6. The goal of such payments is to provide a
67 parity of income and encourage full-time
68 production by the farm family. Unearned
69 income [from interest, dividends, rent, etc.]
70 and off-farm income [from wages, etc.]
71 would reduce the maximum number of units
72 of production eligible for incentive
73 payments proportionately to the net income
74 goal of the incentive payment program.

75 7. The family farm incentive payment shall
76 be so designed to encourage diversified
77 production units to the size of economic
78 efficiency for the combination of
79 commodities produced together with
80 appropriate soil and water stewardship.

81
82 **XI. ACROYNMS AND TERMS**
83 **GLOSSARY**

84
85 **1987 Farm Credit Act** – The Agricultural
86 Credit Act of 1987

87 **ACE** – United States Army Corps of
88 Engineers

89 **ADC** – Animal Damage Control

90 **ADT** – Animal Disease Traceability

91 **AIB** – Animal Industry Board

92 **AMS** – Agricultural Marketing Service

1 **BASEC** – Beadle and Spink Enterprise
2 Community
3 **BSE** – Bovine spongiform encephalopathy
4 **Capper-Volstead Act** – The Cooperative
5 Marketing Association Act of 1922
6 **CFTC** – Commodity Futures Trading
7 Commission
8 **CRP** – Conservation Reserve Program
9 **COLA** – Cost-of-Living Adjustment
10 **COOL** – Country-of-Origin Labeling
11 **DOI** – United States Department of the
12 Interior
13 **DOJ** – United States Department of Justice
14 **DRG** – Diagnostic Related Groups
15 **E30** – a motor fuel blend that contains 30
16 percent ethanol fuel
17 **E85** – a motor fuel blend that consists 85
18 percent ethanol fuel
19 **EBC** – Equivalent bushel concept
20 **EEP** – Employee Education Program
21 **EQIP** – Environmental Quality Incentive
22 Program
23 **EPA** – Environmental Protection Agency
24 **EAJA** – Equal Access to Justice Act
25 **ESA** – Endangered Species Act of 1973
26 **ESL** – English as a Second Language
27 **FACS** – Family and Consumer Science
28 **FAO** – Food and Agriculture Organization
29 of the United Nations
30 **FCS** – Farm Credit System
31 **FDA** – Food and Drug Administration
32 **FDIC** – Federal Deposit Insurance
33 Corporation
34 **FERC** – Federal Energy Regulatory
35 Commission
36 **FFA** – Future Farmers of America
37 **Fifth Amendment** – the Fifth Amendment
38 of the U.S. Constitution provides for:
39 individual protections from double jeopardy
40 and self-incrimination; and a right to due
41 process and just compensation.
42 **FMD** – Foot and mouth disease
43 **FOIA** – Freedom of Information Act
44 **Food for Peace Act** – The Food for Peace
45 Act of 1966
46 **FOR** – Farmer-Owned Grain Reserve
47 **FS** – United States Forest Service
48 **FSA** – Farm Service Agency
49 **FTC** – Federal Trade Commission
50 **FWS** – United States Fish and Wildlife
51 Service
52 **GFP** – South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks
53 **GIPSA** – Grain Inspection, Packers and
54 Stockyards Administration
55 **GMO** – Genetically modified organism
56 **GOED** – Governor’s Office of Economic
57 Development
58 **Illinois Brick Case** – a United States
59 Supreme Court case, Illinois Brick Co. V.
60 Illinois, sets out the “Illinois Brick
61 doctrine,” that prohibited indirect purchasers
62 of goods or services from recovering
63 antitrust damages from antitrust violators.
64 **IM 22** – Initiated Measure 22.
65 **Ionophores** – a lipid soluble molecule that
66 is used as an antibiotic and/or growth
67 enhancing feed additive.
68 **IRS** – Internal Revenue Service
69 **Missouri Seed Availability and**
70 **Competition Act** – House Bill 317
71 introduced in the Missouri State Legislature.
72 It provides for farmers to register with the
73 State Department of Agriculture in order to
74 retain seed from harvest for next year’s
75 planting season.
76 **NFU** – National Farmers Union
77 **No Child Left Behind** – No Child Left
78 Behind Act of 2001
79 **NRCS** – Natural Resources Conservation
80 Service
81 **OSHA** – Occupational Safety and Health
82 Administration
83 **PAC** – Political Action Committee
84 **Pick-Sloan Act** – The Pick-Sloan Flood
85 Control Act of 1944
86 **PMA** – Power Marketing Administration
87 **PSA** - Public Service Ad
88 **Public Law 480** – The Food for Peace Act
89 of 1966
90 **PUC** – South Dakota Public Utilities
91 Commission
92 **REA** – Rural Electrification Administration

1 **REDI** – Revolving Economic Development
2 and Initiative
3 **Rural Electrification Act** – The Rural
4 Electrification Act of 1935
5 **SDBIC** – South Dakota Beef Industry
6 Council
7 **SDDA** – South Dakota Department of
8 Agriculture
9 **SDDOT** – South Dakota Department of
10 Transportation
11 **SDFU** – South Dakota Farmers Union
12 **SDPB** – South Dakota Public Broadcasting
13 **SDSU** – South Dakota State University
14 **SNAP** – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
15 Program
16 **SSA** – Social Security Administration
17 **UN** – United Nations
18 **USD** – University of South Dakota
19 **USDA** – United States Department of
20 Agriculture
21 **USF** – Universal Service Fund
22 **USPS** – United States Postal Service
23 **VA** – United States Department of Veterans
24 Affairs
25 **Voting Rights Act** – The Voting Rights Act
26 of 1965
27 **WAPA** – Western Area Power
28 Administration
29 **WIC** – Woman, Infants and Children
30

31 **XII. SPECIAL ORDERS**

32 **SPECIAL ORDER 1**

33 *Trade*

34 Whereas, The Trump Administration has said
35 it’s going to scrap and rewrite NAFTA and
36 other trade pacts,
37 Whereas, The NAFTA was not perfect as it
38 has some labor and environment and currency
39 manipulation issues. However total scraping
40 of this agreement would definitely hurt our
41 trade with Mexico and Canada,
42 Therefore, Be it resolved by SDFU to urge our
43 congressional delegation to approve NAFTA
44 and other trade pacts with additions to labor,
45 environment and currency manipulation.
46

47 Therefore, Be it further resolved, we
48 encourage the appointment and confirmation
49 of undersecretaries in departments important
50 to American agriculture.

51 Therefore, Be it further resolved to restore
52 mandatory COOL.

53 **SPECIAL ORDER 2**

54 *Ethics in State Government*

55 We, the members of SDFU, support open
56 government in our state capitol.

57 1. Nonpartisan ethics commission to oversee
58 state government patterned after
59 IM 22.

60 2. Nonpartisan redistricting commission.

61 3. Mandatory reporting of Governors club
62 income and expenses similar to legislative
63 candidate requirements.

64 4. End to private consulting contracts for
65 oversight of federal education pass through
66 dollars - i.e. Gear Up Program.

67 5. Maintaining the same number of
68 signatures on ballot initiatives, referendums
69 and constitutional amendments.

70 6. End secret meetings of political party
71 caucuses during session.

72 7. More transparency and open state
73 government by strengthening the open
74 meetings “sunshine” laws.

75 8. Respecting the wishes of the voters on
76 ballot measures that are passed into law.

77 9. Opposing any laws that would delay the
78 implementation of a ballot measure going into
79 effect.

80 10. Support the 2017 SD Anti-Corruption
81 Amendment.
82

83 **SPECIAL ORDER 3**

84 *Non-Meandered Waters*

85 Whereas, Agriculture is South Dakota’s
86 number one industry,

87 Whereas, Hundreds of thousands of acres of
88 private property which traditionally served as
89 cropland, hay land, grazing land and habitat
90 has been inundated by flood waters for over
91 20 years,

92 Therefore, Be it resolved that SDFU supports
93 legislation requiring water management to be
94 developed and exercised to restore land use
95

1 opportunities, as is feasible to pre- 1993
2 establishes land use.
3 Therefore, Be it further resolved, that any
4 public use of this land should only be with
5 landowner permission or voluntary
6 agreements with the landowner and a public
7 agency.

8
9 **SPECIAL ORDER 4**

10 *E30*

11 Whereas, Our SD economy is largely
12 depends on corn markets,

13 Whereas, Producing protein and ethanol is the
14 most profitable highest and best use of corn,

15 Whereas, High protein corn distiller's grains
16 lowers livestock ration costs especially for SD
17 livestock and milk producers,

18 Whereas, Leading other states to also
19 transition our national gasoline pool to already
20 legal E30 likely will double our SD corn
21 ethanol production, stimulating our public
22 economy, creating jobs and increasing state
23 tax revenues,

24 Whereas, Historically and today E30 has
25 lowered the cost of a tank fill by \$2-4 while
26 delivering more power and lower maintenance
27 costs,

28 Therefore, Be it resolved that the state of
29 South Dakota government policies and
30 statements will support the rapid transition of
31 South Dakota's and our national gasoline pool
32 to 94 octane premium E30.

33
34 **SPECIAL ORDER 5**

35 *E30 promotion*

36 Whereas, we cannot wait for others to promote
37 our most optimal blend for all autos or 94
38 octane premium E30,

39 Whereas, Research shows that, for over ten
40 years, standard auto owners agree 94 octane
41 premium E30 is ethanol's sweet spot,

42 Whereas, SDFU's public service ad campaign
43 "because it is the right thing to do" is an
44 effective (potentially self-funded) ad to
45 generate demand for blender pumps and E30,
46 Therefore, Be it resolved that SDFU will
47 encourage other state Farmers Unions to
48 challenge their members to publish the ad in
49 their local newspapers to effectively gain local

50 business sponsors because it is good business
51 for them.

52
53 **SPECIAL ORDER 6**

54 *Elevator Bonding*

55 Whereas, Public Utilities Commission (PUC)
56 needs more oversight of elevators,

57 Whereas, A warehouse receipt is proof of
58 ownership,

59 Whereas, We need grain pool protection fund,
60 modeled after the North Dakota grain pool
61 protection fund,

62 Whereas, Farmers should be allowed to access
63 bond with stored grain,

64 Whereas, Financial review by the PUC needs
65 to be made sooner and more often,

66 Therefore, Be it resolved that SDFU supports
67 the revision of the bonding of elevators
68 process,

69 Therefore, Be it further resolved that SDFU
70 supports grain pool protection fund.

71
72 **SPECIAL ORDER 7**

73 *Farmer's crop insurance enhancement*
74 *product resolution (Inventory Management*
75 *Soil Enhancement Tool)*

76 Whereas, American farm economy has
77 returned to economic challenges faced in years
78 past,

79 Whereas, American farmers currently have
80 limited mechanisms available for managing
81 their operating needs and managing their
82 inventory while addressing needed soil
83 improvements,

84 Whereas, USDA funding for farm bill
85 programs continue to face challenges to fully
86 meet farmer's needs in a timely manner,

87 Therefore, Be it resolved, SDFU deems it
88 necessary for American family farming
89 operations to have a mechanism farmers can
90 voluntarily use annually to enhance individual
91 farmer's pricing inventory while enhancing
92 their land's marginal soil. SDFU endorses the
93 Inventory Management Soil Enhancement
94 Tool (IMSET) and encourages RMA and
95 congress to expedite IMSET to be available to
96 farmers as quickly as possible, alleviating our
97 current economic challenges and allowing
98 family farmer's individual choice to save their

1 farms and our rural economy from repeating
2 history. Many positive economic possibilities
3 can be realized in rural American communities
4 and farms while lowering farmer's
5 dependence on USDA. A lower national debt
6 will also be realized as farmers become more
7 reliant on their own management abilities and
8 less on USDA.

9

10 **SPECIAL ORDER 8**

11 *Resolution in support of Precision Agriculture*
12 *facility*

13 Whereas, SDFU is a farm organization that
14 supports and encourages agricultural
15 education and research at the land-grant
16 institution of South Dakota State University
17 (SDSU),

18 Whereas, The future of agricultural
19 profitability and sustaining the environment is
20 linked to collecting and understanding data
21 utilized by precision technology,

22 Whereas, precision agriculture is a fast-
23 growing field of study combining agronomy,
24 plant and soil sciences, engineering, and
25 mathematics,

26 Whereas, Various forms of precision
27 agriculture are increasingly being adopted by
28 South Dakota farmers and ranchers, Whereas,
29 SDSU has announced its intention to build a
30 Precision Agriculture facility at Brookings,
31 SD,

32 Therefore, Be it resolved that SDFU supports
33 SDSU's intent to build a Precision Agriculture
34 Facility at Brookings, SD.

35

36 **SPECIAL ORDER 9**

37 *Resolution on seed additions to statute*

38 Whereas, There have been instances of seed
39 sellers not being able to put a lien on seed
40 because it is not listed in the statute,

41 Whereas, Recent years have included the
42 addition of cover crops, pulse crops and other
43 introduced crops,

44 Therefore, Be it resolved that the statute needs
45 updating to include all seed for agriculture
46 purposes.

47

48

49

50 **SPECIAL ORDER 10**

51 *E30 Challenge*

52 Whereas, This is America. All American auto
53 owners have a self-evident unalienable
54 constitutional right to save several dollars per
55 tank fill by fueling with lower cost, better
56 performance, same mileage splash blended 94
57 octane Premium E30 ethanol blends to protect
58 themselves and family members from gasoline
59 octane's poisonous benzene and other
60 polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH)
61 emissions identical to those found in cigarette
62 smoke.

63 Whereas, There is no recommended safe level
64 of exposure to benzene or cigarette smoke and
65 ethanol's two carbon molecule simply does
66 not contain or produce them; plus its added
67 oxygen assures more complete combustion of
68 all poisonous carbon based molecules,

69 Therefore, Be it resolved, We invite all
70 American auto owners to take the E30
71 challenge to typically save several dollars per
72 tank fill by fueling with better performance,
73 same mileage splash blended 94 octane
74 Premium E30 when available and practical,
75 significantly stimulating US rural economies
76 and significantly curbing our children's
77 exposure to known human
78 carcinogens/mutagens such as benzene, plus
79 other associated similar PAH emissions
80 identical to those found in cigarette smoke.

81