

2015

New Hampshire

State Grange

Legislative Policies Handbook



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1. AGRICULTURE

GRANGE AGRICULTURAL POLICY STATEMENT

The New Hampshire State Grange has historically commended our farmers, ranchers and gardeners for their guardianship and stewardship of our earth, air, and water. We continue to honor American farmers, ranchers and their families for their growing partnership with the earth and striving to conserve our natural resources and providing us with an abundant supply of food, natural fiber and other products.

The New Hampshire State Grange pledges to rededicate its efforts to build on conservation successes as well as developing innovative efforts contributing to clean water and air, healthy soil, improved wildlife habitat, open spaces and a quality environment for all.

The New Hampshire State Grange encourages the New Hampshire Legislative Delegation to seek out and secure available funds to improve the marketing of New Hampshire products.

The New Hampshire State Grange supports all efforts to preserve the Family Farm. We also support any effort to reduce the paperwork put on farmers and all other small business owners

The following is a list of positions adopted by the New Hampshire State Grange with regard to agriculture.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
1979	Opposed inheritance tax on farm property that has been handed down to family.
1979	In favor of a land gains tax if inherited property is sold within 6 years.
1984	In favor of farmers being compensated for losses due to coyotes attacking.
1984	In favor of State funding for Agricultural Fairs.
1992	In favor of maintaining the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture.
1996	In favor of legislation which would limit the liability to an equine owner.

2. AGRICULTURE – ADOPTED POLICIES

SUBJECT: TERMINATOR SEEDS: 1999

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 126th ANNUAL SESSION IN 1999

The New Hampshire State Grange joins the NH Senate in banning terminator seeds until their use can be proved safe. The New Hampshire State Grange urges that a moratorium on the use of this technology be implemented immediately.

SUBJECT: INDUSTRIAL HEMP: 2000

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 127th ANNUAL SESSION IN 2000

The New Hampshire State Grange goes on record in support of legalization and licensing for the cultivation and production of industrial hemp.

SUBJECT: EPA REGULATION OF FORESTLAND: 2000

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT 127th ANNUAL SESSION IN 2000

The New Hampshire State Grange supports keeping forestry classified as a “non-point” source of pollution. The regulation of forestry and “non-point” sources of pollution should be determined by the states as stipulated in Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.

SUBJECT: REGULATION OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP FARMING: 2002

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 129TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2002

The New Hampshire State Grange supports any movement or legislation restructuring the government so that the regulation of hemp farming comes under the jurisdiction of the US Department of Agriculture.

SUBJECT: MILK PRICING: 2003

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 130TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2003

The New Hampshire State Grange supports legislation reinstating the Milk Control Board to insure an equitable return to the dairy farmer.

SUBJECT: MAKING MILK DISPENSERS AVAILABLE IN ALL SCHOOLS: 2004

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 131ST ANNUAL SESSION IN 2004

The New Hampshire State Grange requests that milk dispensers be available in all schools for students to get a nutritious beverage for snacking.

SUBJECT: LABELING OF MILK PRODUCTS TO SHOW ORIGIN: 2004

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 131ST ANNUAL SESSION IN 2004

The New Hampshire State Grange recommends that milk products from each geographical area be identified for the consuming market.

SUBJECT: FUNDING CO-OPERATIVE EXTENSION: 2004

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 131ST ANNUAL SESSION IN 2004

The New Hampshire State Grange recognizes that the need for the Cooperative Extension is greater than ever. We support legislation that would provide adequate designated funding for the Cooperative Extension in the legislature's appropriation to the University of New Hampshire.

SUBJECT: FARM VIABILITY PROGRAM: 2004

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 131ST ANNUAL SESSION IN 2004

The New Hampshire State Grange will actively lobby any legislation recommended by the special legislative committee on farm viability.

SUBJECT: FARMER'S MARKETS: 2005

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 132ND ANNUAL SESSION IN 2005

New Hampshire State Grange officially recognizes the importance of Farmers' Markets in New Hampshire, and encourages Subordinate Granges to sponsor, support, or provides space on Grange property, if needed, for Farmers' Markets in their community.

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION (N.A.I.S.): 2007

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 134TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2007

The State Grange urge the passage of legislation which institutes Agricultural policy which maintains the NAIS system as a voluntary system, and the State Grange support tax incentives for voluntary participants in NAIS, and State Grange recommend that the data be collected and be managed by producer organizations or state university systems.

SUBJECT: SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE STATE AND LOCAL BASIS 2008

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 135TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2008

The NH State Grange encourages its Members, their family, friends and neighbors to buy local when and where ever possible. Buy from local retailers, service providers, craftsmen and farms. Visit farmers markets, and farm stands for local, fresh, safe, good tasting food products, and the New Hampshire State Grange supports local sustainable agriculture, and the NH State Grange encourages the development of programs to assist people in developing their ability to grow and sell food produce, preferably organic, with minimal government regulations.

SUBJECT: ENCOURAGE AND DEVELOP NEW FARMERS 2008

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 135TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2008

The NH State Grange request the cooperative extension service to develop programs for the education of adults similar to the existing 4-H youth programs, and that local Granges be encouraged to work in partnership with cooperative extension to implement these programs.

SUBJECT: FARM CREDIT SYSTEM 2008

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 135TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2008

The New Hampshire State Grange supports legislative and regulatory actions to expand Farm Credit lending authority for agriculture and commercial fishing and the elimination of unnecessary and burdensome regulation. Also that we oppose any changes to federal and state tax and fee provisions for Farm Credit institutions that could adversely effect farmer-owners of Farm Credit cooperatives; we support maintaining the cooperative structure of Farm Credit and farmer ownership of Farm Credit associations and support inclusion of farm Credit institutions as eligible lenders in state economic development programs.

SUBJECT: RAW MILK 2008

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 135TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2008

The sale of raw milk by dairy farmers should be supported; and be it further, and that no undue restrictions or mandates be impressed upon the dairy farmers who sell raw milk, the sale of raw milk, or on the raw milk product itself.

SUBJECT: PREVENT THE LOSS OF FARMLAND 2008

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT 135TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2008

Local and regional land use planning should be implemented to prevent the loss of farmland whenever possible; every suitable alternative site should be explored when considering development of prime agricultural soils; local, regional, and national land conservation trusts be supported in their acquisition of farmland or of the development rights of farmland so that the land remains capable, in its fullest sense, of being agriculturally productive.

SUBJECT: DAIRY 2009

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 136TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2009

The resolution urged the Congressional Delegation and the administration to acknowledge the importance of dairy to New Hampshire. In addition, the resolution asked for funding and implementing the Federal Milk Marketing Order as outlined in the 2008 Farm Bill. Implementation

of tariffs on foreign dairy solids, and setting of regional prices to reflect accurately and realistically the costs of production. And addressing the problems of labor shortage in the dairy industry.

SUBJECT: INDUSTRIAL HEMP ON THE PINE RIDGE RESERVATION

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 165TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2009

We support the growing of industrial hemp on the Pine Ridge Reservation and urge the Federal Government to support it by all means possible.

SUBJECT: FEDERAL FOOD SAFETY REGULATION

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 165TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2009

- Resolved that the State Grange urge Congress to consider the unintended consequences of a one-size fits all fee system on small value-added producers and processors.
- Resolved that the USDA regulations on farmers continue to exempt farmers from further FDA regulation and inspection.
- Resolved that producers registered with the D further FDA regulation and inspection.
- Resolved that producers registered with the Dept. of Homeland Security as facilities – specifically maple sugar and honey – should receive the same treatment as all farmers under the Food Safety regulations.
- Resolved that the inclusion of intensive record-keeping in any federal regulation should include funding and technical assistance to small producers and processors.
- Resolved that scale-appropriate regulations, fees and penalties be included in any food safety legislation.
- Resolved that existing state inspection program should be given consideration in the development of food safety regulations.
- Resolved the resolution be forwarded to appropriate legislative parties.

SUBJECT: STATE EFFORTS FOR THE DAIRY INDUSTRY

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 165TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2009

The Grange urges Northeast State Policymakers to work toward developing state milk pricing policy similar to Pennsylvania and Maine. And also urges policymakers to review the policy of hauling charges being charged to the producer. State law identifies that ownership of milk changes when the milk is commingled.

SUBJECT: RESPONDING TO THE ECONOMIC CRISIS IN THE DAIRY INDUSTRY

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 165TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2009

The state grange urges the federal government to support dairy, including oversight of content of milk solids regardless of country of origin, change the Federal Milk Marketing Order, and investigate monopolization of the processing industry.

SUBJECT: ENCOURAGING SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO PARTICIPATE IN AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM AND FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAMS

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 165TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2009

SUBJECT: OVERSIGHT OF FARM PRODUCTS

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 165TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2009

It is the policy of the State Grange that all food products on the farm, at farm stands and farmers markets be under the sole oversight of the USDA.

SUBJECT: SUPPORT REPORTING OF LIVESTOCK TO LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT WITHIN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 169TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2013

SUBJECT: LABELING OF GMO FOODS ONLY AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 169TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2013

3. ENERGY

GRANGE ENERGY POLICY STATEMENT

The New Hampshire State Grange encourages a policy that keeps the United States of America a healthy and independent nation that is not dependent on foreign powers for our country’s energy needs. We encourage the exploration of alternative energy resources; we also encourage development of relations with non-OPEC member nations as long as they are non-terrorist nations.

The following is a list of positions adopted by the New Hampshire State Grange, with regard to energy.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
1976	In favor of regulating energy producers (oil monopolies & distributors).
1976	In favor of the use of other resources of energy, including nuclear power.
1990	Opposed to mandating the use of any one type of fuel.

4. ENERGY – ADOPTED POLICIES

SUBJECT: STRATEGIC OIL RESERVES: 2000

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT 127th ANNUAL SESSION IN 2000

The New Hampshire State Grange supports increased political and diplomatic efforts by the federal government to pressure OPEC and non-OPEC oil exporting nations to cease their efforts to control world oil prices by restricting their exports of oil, and instead to allow market forces of supply and demand to determine the price of oil on the world markets. Special diplomatic efforts should be focused on nations that have benefited from enhanced domestic stability from US military leadership assistance during and after the Gulf War, such as Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates as well as Mexico, which has benefited from increased trade with the US through the NAFTA agreement.

The New Hampshire State Grange opposes further releases from the US Strategic Oil reserves for any purpose other than war or interruption of delivery of foreign supplies of petroleum into the US. We further support replacing the oil that has already been released from the Strategic Oil Reserves as soon as possible.

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY 2008

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT 135TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2008

The New Hampshire State Grange recommends that The U.S. government adopt a comprehensive energy policy to deal with the high cost of energy, the purchase of foreign oil that is not in our national interest and the depletion of a non renewable energy source.

Be it further resolved that the National Grange adopt a policy that includes:

1. Drilling in existing oil lease areas that are economically feasible
2. Encourage and aid in the economical development and expansion of renewable sources of energy, such as, but not limited to Wind, solar, tidal, hydro, and geo-thermal and bio fuel
3. Encourage and facilitate the expansion of nuclear energy production
4. Encourage and facilitate greater conservation of energy in the public and private sectors in numerous ways that are economically achievable and not a burden on our citizens, taxpayers and businesses.
5. To further expand on the use of natural gas.
6. Encourage expansion of refining capacity

SUBJECT: BIODIESEL FUEL: 2003

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT 130th ANNUAL SESSION IN 2003

The New Hampshire State Grange supports education in the use of biodiesel fuel, and we would support legislation that would enhance its further development and use

SUBJECT: SMART GRID TECHNOLOGY 2008

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 135TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2008

The State Grange of New Hampshire support, with enthusiasm, the implementation of smart grid technology including facets of smart metering and Time of Use (TOU) electrical metering and billing giving every New Hampshire citizen the ability to consume or harvest electricity in markets that are fair, free, and open.

SUBJECT: HOME FUEL EFFICIENCY..2008

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT 135TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2008

The New Hampshire State Grange be in support of substantial tax credit for investment made in alternative, renewable energy resources, and that the New Hampshire State Grange urges Congress to support of tax credits for the installation of devices with increased energy efficiency.

SUBJECT: NORTHERN PASS

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 167TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2011

The State Grange takes a stand against Northern Pass.

5. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

GRANGE PUBLIC AFFAIRS POLICY STATEMENT

The New Hampshire State Grange believes that every community is entitled to a viable economy, wholesome family living space and a sense of community pride. We believe strong communities and strong families can be maintained through shared responsibility in neighborhood concerns and a commitment to community service. We must guard against the temptation to believe that government can solve all social problems.

The following is list of positions adopted by the New Hampshire State Grange, with regard to public affairs.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
1985	In favor of having labels on bottles that show the alcohol content.

SUBJECT: GAMBLING

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 165TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2009

We support casino gaming and make it a legislative priority.

6. PUBLIC AFFAIRS – ADOPTED POLICIES

SUBJECT: MAINTENANCE OF OLD UNUSED ROADS FOR PROPERTY ACCESS AND FIRE SAFETY: 1998

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT 125TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 1998

The New Hampshire State Grange encourages towns to maintain old roads in passable condition for the purpose of safety and recreation.

SUBJECT: SEASON PASSES TO STATE PARKS, CAMP GROUNDS AND OTHER STATE OWNED AND OPERATED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES: 1998

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 125TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 1998

The New Hampshire State Grange goes on record as opposed to the sale, privatization, or use of other ways to remove state owned property or facilities from public management or control.

SUBJECT: WINDSHIELD WIPERS: 1998

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT 125TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 1998

The New Hampshire State Grange supports a bill requiring all drivers to use their headlights any time that they have to turn their windshield wipers on.

SUBJECT: WOLF RE-POPULATION IN NEW HAMPSHIRE: 1998

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 125TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 1998

The New Hampshire State Grange opposes wolf re-population efforts.

SUBJECT: ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES (ATV) OPERATORS (INCL SNOW MACHINES): 1998

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT 125TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 1998

The New Hampshire State Grange goes on record as being in favor of all operators and passengers of ATV's and or snow machines wearing helmets when they ride on such vehicles within the state of New Hampshire.

SUBJECT: RABIES: 1999

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 126TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 1999

All sick animals that come in direct contact with humans, dogs, and domestic farm animals that have direct contact with humans will be tested.

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES: 2000

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT 127th ANNUAL SESSION IN 2000

The New Hampshire State Grange supports a change in the commission on presidential debates to become a non-partisan commission allowing all candidates to participate in the presidential debate process.

SUBJECT: HOME RULE: 2000

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT 127th ANNUAL SESSION IN 2000

Home Rule will allow municipalities to pass conflicting ordinances in the areas of agriculture and small business. The New Hampshire State Grange goes on record as opposing home rule.

SUBJECT: MANDATORY INSURANCE: 2000

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 127TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2000

The New Hampshire State Grange urges the legislature to require all persons desiring to register a vehicle in the state of New Hampshire be required to provide proof of adequate liability/uninsured motorists insurance for each vehicle being registered.

SUBJECT: VETERANS CLINICS: 2001 - 01

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 128th ANNUAL SESSION IN 2001

The New Hampshire State Grange supports the establishment of three U.S. Veterans sponsored clinics to be located in Keene, Berlin and Rochester

SUBJECT: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE IN SCHOOLS: 2001

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT 128th ANNUAL SESSION IN 2001

The New Hampshire State Grange supports encouraging the recitation of the pledge of allegiance at the beginning of each school day in grades 1-12, in addition to allowing a moment of silence at the start of each day.

SUBJECT: MOMENT OF SILENCE IN SCHOOLS: 2001

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT 128th ANNUAL SESSION IN 2001

The New Hampshire State Grange urges Congress to pass legislation allowing a "moment of silence" in public schools, in addition to the recitation of the pledge of allegiance each day.

SUBJECT: BANNING SMOKING IN RESTAURANTS: 2002

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT 129TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2002

The New Hampshire State Grange supports legislation to ban smoking in all public restaurants.

SUBJECT: PERMANENT FUNDING OF LCHIP: 2002

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 129TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2002

The New Hampshire State Grange supports the permanent annual funding of LCHIP at twelve million dollars from a designated source.

SUBJECT: SHARING FEDERAL HIGHWAY FUNDS WITH CITIES AND TOWNS: 2002

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 129TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2002

The New Hampshire State Grange supports legislation that will provide State and Federal reimbursement for fire and medical emergency services.

SUBJECT: FLUORIDATION OF TOWN/CITY WATER SUPPLY: 2002

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 129TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2002

The New Hampshire State Grange supports the elimination of the introduction of fluoridation to the water sources of NH cities and towns.

SUBJECT: USE OF CREDIT HISTORIES TO DETERMINE INSURANCE RATING TIERS: 2002

ADOPTED INTO POLICY BY THE NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE GRANGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON DECEMBER 27, 2002

The New Hampshire State Grange opposes the use of credit histories to determine which rating tier an insured is placed into, as this is a discriminatory use of a persons personal credit history.

SUBJECT: WALKERS AND CRUTCHES FOR THE VISION IMPAIRED: 2003

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 130TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2003

The New Hampshire State Grange recommends that the appropriate state agencies provide walkers and crutches with black handles, white legs and red tips.

SUBJECT: RENT CONTROL: 2003

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 130TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2003

The New Hampshire State Grange supports the introduction of legislation to implement a form of rent control to ensure the availability of affordable housing for low to moderate income families.

SUBJECT: MOTORCYCLE NOISE POLLUTION: 2003

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 130TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2003

The New Hampshire State Grange demands that all motorcycles be equipped with inspected mufflers to diminish loud and damaging noise. We recommend that motorcyclists not race their engines within populated areas.

SUBJECT: EMINENT DOMAIN: 2005

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 132TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2005

New Hampshire State Grange and the National Grange oppose and lobby against legislative, judicial and administrative actions, which would restrict the rights of private property ownership in Eminent Domain proceedings.

SUBJECT: LAW ENFORCEMENT ON THE RECORD: 2006

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT 133RD ANNUAL SESSION IN 2006

The New Hampshire State Grange support modification to RSA 570 section II adding paragraph (K) to read as follows: Any natural person to record audio and/or video of activities of any and all on duty law enforcement officials for public consideration, public comment, public investigation, or public review; and any law enforcement personnel shall be guilty of a class A felony if any attempt is made to prevent such public activities by any law enforcement official "under color of law" threat of prosecution or through any similar means of coercion or intimidation

SUBJECT: FISH AND GAME COMMISSION 2008

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT 135TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2008

NEW Hampshire State Grange recommends adding a member of a conservation group and a member of the NH Farm Bureau or agricultural community to the Fish and Game Commission

SUBJECT: LAW OF THE SEA

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 168TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2012

That the State Grange encourages the National Grange to urge the U.S. Senate to ratify UNCLOS.

SUBJECT: POLITICAL CAMPAIGN SIGNS

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 168TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2012

Urge the State Legislature to limit the number of campaign signs except on private property.

7. HEALTHCARE

GRANGE HEALTHCARE POLICY STATEMENT

The New Hampshire State Grange has a keen interest in ensuring access to high quality health care services for all of our citizens. We will support polices that allow choices in the level and kinds of services and providers available to our citizens.

8. HEALTHCARE – ADOPTED POLICIES

SUBJECT: HEARING EVALUATIONS FOR NEWBORN BABIES: 1998

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 125th ANNUAL SESSION IN 1998

The New Hampshire State Grange seeks and support legislation to require a diagnostic hearing evaluation of all newborn babies in the state of New Hampshire.

SUBJECT: MEDICARE REFORM: 2001

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT 128th ANNUAL SESSION IN 2001

The New Hampshire State Grange urge Congress to include prescription drug coverage similar to programs offered by private insurers with each participant being required to pay a co-payment at an affordable rate.

SUBJECT: ASTHMA INHALERS: 2002

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 129TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2002

The New Hampshire State Grange supports that children and young adults prone to asthma should have accessibility to their inhalers with proper training on the use of an inhaler, and that any organization responsible for their welfare must receive proper releases from the parent or legal guardian and medical personnel. The child or young adult may carry their own inhalers or have them kept in a place accessible to them subject to an asthma occurrence.

SUBJECT: ADVERTISING OF PRESCRIPTION MEDICINE: 2005

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 122nd ANNUAL SESSION IN 2005

NH State Grange requests a cessation of media advertising of Prescription Medications.

SUBJECT: FEDERAL SINGLE PAYER HEALTHCARE

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 165TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2009

Resolved that the Grange urge the federal government to expand Medicare and create a not-for-profit single payer system that provides affordable healthcare.

9. EDUCATION

GRANGE EDUCATION POLICY STATEMENT

The New Hampshire State Grange believes that a strong educational system is the cornerstone of our society. We believe that the involvement of parents and the community as a whole can be an asset to our schools and our students' ability and desire to achieve. As an advocate for the family, we support parental participation in the educational process of our children, and adoption of a sustaining educational infrastructure. NH State Grange encourages improvement efforts in our children's education. We have

faith in local school boards and voters to make decisions within minimum standards set by the state on behalf of local children.

10. EDUCATION – ADOPTED POLICIES

SUBJECT: VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS AND HOME ECONOMICS COURSES FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOL: 1998

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 125th ANNUAL SESSION IN 1998

The New Hampshire State Grange supports the availability of vocational Agricultural education and Home Economics for all students in New Hampshire's public schools.

11. TRANSPORTATION

GRANGE TRANSPORTATION POLICY STATEMENT

The New Hampshire State Grange recognizes that all of society benefits from a transportation infrastructure that is adequate, modern and matched to the relevant needs of commerce and citizens in every region of the state.

The following is a list of positions adopted by the New Hampshire State Grange with regards to transportation.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
1983	In favor of traffic violators having to clean up the roads under the direction of Law Officers.
1992	Opposed to allowing double/triple trailers on the roads of NH.
1992	Opposed to the California low emission program in NH.
1992	Opposed to converting highway revenue funds to be used for Amtrak.

12. TRANSPORTATION – ADOPTED POLICIES

SUBJECT: USE OF FEDERAL GASOLINE TAXES AND HIGHWAY TRUST FUND MONIES: 2001

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT 128th ANNUAL SESSION IN 2001

The New Hampshire State Grange urges Congress to discontinue the practice of using funds from the highway trust fund and gasoline taxes for the purposes of balancing the Federal budget. This money should be used strictly for the purpose of highway and road infrastructure improvements.

SUBJECT: SEAT BELTS: 1999

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 126th ANNUAL SESSION 1999:

The New Hampshire State Grange goes on record as supporting a seat belt law mandating that all passengers and operators of automobiles on New Hampshire roads and highways shall wear seat belts.

SUBJECT: NATION WIDE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE FUND 2008

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 135TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2008

The New Hampshire State Grange support the establishment of a national transportation Infrastructure trust fund, and any levies to fund this trust are entirely dedicated to the country's transportation

SUBJECT: SHARING FEDERAL HIGHWAY FUNDS WITH CITIES AND TOWNS: 2002

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 129TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2002

The New Hampshire State Grange supports legislation that will provide State and Federal reimbursement for fire and medical emergency services for towns that provide services on any of the interstate highways.

SUBJECT: EXPANSION OF INTERSTATE 93 FROM MANCHESTER SOUTH: 2002

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 129TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2002

The New Hampshire State Grange supports rail revitalization for commuters and freight as a way to eliminate traffic congestion, and a widening of the highway that is done only in select areas due to the impact on undeveloped forest, farmlands and water supply.

SUBJECT: BRIDGE EXPANSION AT SAGAMORE POINT AND THE LITCHFIELD TOWN LINE: 2007

NH State Grange support and strongly encourage the NHDOT build the Third Bridge (POW/MIA Bridge) across the Merrimack River from Litchfield to Merrimack beginning with interchanges on Rt. 102 and Rt. 3A and terminating at Daniel Webster Highway in Merrimack. Ultimately the road needs to connect to the F. E. Everett Turnpike. Further NH State Grange support paying for the Bridge with a one way toll on the Litchfield side that will stop upon paying off the bond.

SUBJECT: DISABLED VETERANS PLATES AND WAIVER OF REGISTRATION FEES

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 165TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2009

We support amending the state RSA 261:157 to allow for disabled veterans plates and waiver of registration fees

SUBJECT: CLOSED REST AREAS IN NORTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 168TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2012

The State Grange urges the state to re-open the rest areas in New Hampshire on a full-time basis and to renovate and maintain the rest area buildings.

13. TAXATION

GRANGE TAXATION POLICY STATEMENT

The New Hampshire State Grange recognizes the necessity to balance expenditures and revenue. Sweeping proposals regarding one must be consistent with the other. We support legislation which would balance the state and federal revenues with corresponding limits to expenditures.

The following is a list of positions adopted by the New Hampshire State Grange with regards to taxation.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
1981	Opposed to any tax revision that would cause the downgrading of emergency services, schools, or health programs.
1990	Opposed to increasing the gas tax to balance the budget.
1994	In favor of tax-exempt status for agricultural fairs in the state of NH.

14. TAXATION – ADOPTED POLICIES

SUBJECT: EDUCATION FUNDING: 2001

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 128th ANNUAL SESSION IN 2001

The New Hampshire State Grange supports the establishment of a 2.5% income tax to be used **STRICTLY** for the funding of education.

SUBJECT: PROPERTY TAX RELIEF 2008

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT 135TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2008

The New Hampshire State Grange support property tax relief for all the residents of the state in the form of an annual penalty interest not to exceed conventional rates for a homestead and that actively operated farms not be charged an annual interest of not more than two per-cent over prime or conventional rates for a homestead, whichever is less, and the New Hampshire State Grange shall actively work with the General Court to bring a bill to a vote before the House of

Representatives and the State Senate to affect lower penalty rates for property liened as a result of back taxes.

SUBJECT: STATE INCOME TAX

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 167TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2011

The State Grange is in opposition to a State Income Tax.

SUBJECT: STATE SALES TAX

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 167TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2011

The State Grange is in favor of a sales tax on non-consumable goods.

15. FAMILIES

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
1984	Support the cutting of red tape to allow freer adoption procedures.

16. ENVIRONMENT – ADOPTED POLICIES

Subject: Reusable Bag 2008

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT THE 135TH ANNUAL SESSION IN 2008

That all Grangers be encouraged to use non-disposable bags when making purchases and encourage their friends, neighbors, and relatives to do the same.

Subject: Recycling Education 2008

ADOPTED INTO POLICY AT 135TH ANNUAL SESSION I 200

Each NH Grange be encouraged to sponsor an educational program in their town, both open to the public and well-advertised, and invite a member of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services' Solid Waste Technical Assistance Team to speak on the topics of recycling and Pay as You Throw programs in New Hampshire.

17. CONTACT INFORMATION

**Webster – New Hampshire State
Government Online**

<http://www.state.nh.us/>

**Directory of New Hampshire State
Departments
New Hampshire General Court**

<http://www.state.nh.us/governor/index.html>

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/ie/>

New Hampshire Judicial Branch

<http://www.courts.state.nh.us>

Governor Maggie Hassan

Office of the Governor

25 Capitol Street

Concord, NH 03301

Phone: (603) 271-2121

Web address:

<http://www.state.nh.us/governor/index.html>

Senator Kelly Ayotte(R)

144 Russell Senate Office Building

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Sen. AyotteConcord Office:

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E-mail: kelly_ayotte@ayotte.senate.gov

Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D)

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Jeanne_shaheen@shaheen.senate.gov.

Rep. Frank Guinta

Rep. Annie Kuster (D-NH-2)

Washington Office

137 Cannon Office Buliding

Washington, DC 20515

202-225-5206

Bill Status (LEGIS)

(202) 225-1772 (Status information for House & Senate bills)

White House

<http://www.whitehouse.gov>; (202) 456-1414 (Operator)

National Grange

<http://www.nationalgrange.org>; 1-888-4GRANGE

Thomas – Legislative Information on the Web <http://thomas.loc.gov>

United States Senate

<http://www.senate.gov>

U.S. House of Representatives

<http://www.house.gov>

Project Vote Smart

<http://www.vote-smart.org>

Congressional E-mail Directory

U.S. Government Official Web Portal

State & Local Government on the Net

<http://www.statelocalgov.net>

<http://www.webslingerz.com/jhoffman/congress-email.html>

<http://www.firstgov.gov>

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