

**WHERE WE STAND:
A Summary of Selected DRC Positions
Taken at Annual Meetings through 2016**

Fair Trade

- DRC opposes any international trade agreements that encourage shifting jobs and agricultural production to other countries and allow foreign corporations to override national laws, regulations, and court decisions. (2002, 2004, 2006)
- DRC opposes the reauthorization of Presidential Trade Promotion ("fast-track") authority. (2006)
- DRC supports the removal of food and agriculture from the authority of the World Trade Organization. (2005)

Safe Food

- DRC calls for: suspension of government approval of genetically manipulated products; a ban on the patenting of seeds, plants, and animals; consumers' right to know whether their food is genetically manipulated; liability on the part of biotech corporations for damages caused by their products; and disclosure of sponsorship of research on genetically manipulated products. (1999, 2002)
- DRC urges full environmental impact statements for all genetically modified crops prior to deregulation decisions (2005)
- DRC urges reform of federal oversight of genetically modified experiment crops to provide improved control over seeds and crop materials and analysis of economic impacts. (2009)
- DRC urges testing of North Dakota-produced flax for genetically modified Triffid flax contamination to detect and prevent its spread. (2010)
- DRC opposes federal legislative efforts to deny states the ability to set their own food safety and labeling standards. (2000)
- DRC urges repeal of North Dakota law denying political subdivisions the right to zone regarding seeds. (2005)
- DRC supports strong enforcement of federal law requiring country-of-origin labeling for all beef, pork, lamb, and fresh produce, with the U. S. label reserved for meat from animals born, raised, and slaughtered in the United States. (2001, 2002)
- DRC urges a North Dakota inspection program for cattle imported from Canada. (2005)
- DRC supports trace-back systems for all imported livestock, and urges that trace-back systems for U.S. livestock build on existing programs rather than creating a duplicative and wasteful system, and protect the confidential business information of livestock producers. (2004)
- DRC opposes the use of irradiated foods in school lunch menus. (2003)
- DRC urges development of food policies to encouraged consumption of local foods and the development of a regional food system. (2007, 2008)
- DRC favors federal food safety legislation that provides for independent inspections of all industrial producers and processors, but less stringent standards for local and organic producers and processors. (2009)

- DRC favors a ban on all feeding of animal byproducts or waste to livestock. (1997, 2004)
- DRC urges composting of all waste products from CAFO's. (2007)

Fair Agricultural Markets

- DRC opposes any weakening of North Dakota's anti-corporate farming laws. (1990, 1994)
- DRC opposes the proposed initiated measure for a State Constitutional Amendment on "modern farming" practices. (2011)
- DRC urges that any confined animal feeding operation of more than 1,000 animal units be classified as an industrial or commercial land use. (2007)
- DRC opposes the permitting of large-scale contract confinement hog operations in North Dakota, and urges counties to enact zoning to protect local communities against their environmental and economic impacts. (1997, 2005)
- DRC urges enforcement of antitrust laws against the meatpacking industry, and the investigation of price discovery in the livestock markets, and supports federal legislation to outlaw formula-price forward contracts that prevent competition in livestock markets. (1989, 1990, 1991, 1993, 1994, 2004, 2010)
- DRC urges federal anti-trust investigation of the regional monopoly in cull cow slaughter facilities. (2010)
- DRC opposes increasing the beef checkoff from \$1 to \$2 per head, favors a checkoff that is refundable and directable, and opposes any checkoff increase without a producer vote. (2007)
- DRC opposes any federal mandatory registration of premises and animal identification system. (2008)
- DRC favors replacement of the Freedom to Farm Act with legislation that sets a floor price or loan rate at the cost of production, manages supply, extends commodity loans to 18 months, re-establishes a farmer-owned grain reserve, and requires country-of-origin labeling price reporting, and inspection of imported food to ensure that it meets U. S. food safety, environmental, and worker protection standards. (1999, 2000)
- DRC favors limitation of farm payments to \$250,000 per year. (2005)
- DRC supports federal crop insurance reform that imposes limits on crop insurance subsidies; requires conservation compliance; better targets affordable policies to farmers who need them; and stops discriminating against beginning, diversified and organic farmers. (2013)
- DRC supports the federal legalization of industrial hemp production and research to promote production. (2003)
- DRC opposes direct payments from state checkoff funds to private commodity groups. (2005)
- DRC calls for increased public funding of agricultural research to counter the growing influence of agribusiness interests. (2005)
- DRC supports only those value-added agricultural projects that are owned and controlled by producers, and benefit them. (2000)
- DRC opposes privatization of grain inspection and other inspection programs that underwrite the quality of U.S. commodities. (2005)

- DRC calls for an investigation of possible collusion by millers in setting wheat protein discounts. (2009)

Don't Waste the West

- DRC favors passage of a federal law allowing local communities to bar the importation of out-of-state waste into their landfills. (1991, 1993, 1994)
- DRC urges all counties to adopt solid waste zoning to require county permits for new or expanding landfills, and to require public hearings and a county vote prior to approval. (1995)
- DRC opposes disposing of hazardous waste by mixing it with fertilizer. (1997)
- DRC opposes exempting waste from confined hog and dairy operations from the Comprehensive Environmental Response and Liability Act, which regulates the clean-up of toxic "Superfund" sites. (2006)

Clean Energy

- DRC supports a minimum \$10 million appropriation from the Resources Trust Fund to programs administering energy efficiency, energy assistance and renewable energy. (2012)
- DRC urges the use of funds from the state Resources Trust Fund for weatherization and energy assistance. (2008)
- DRC supports state standards for bonding and reclamation of wind energy sites, limitation of wind energy options to three years or less, prohibition of secrecy clauses in wind energy contracts, non-severability of wind rights from surface ownership, a guarantee of collective bargaining rights for landowners in wind energy negotiations, and protection of adjacent property rights. (2003)
- DRC supports setting a state goal of 10,000 megawatts of installed wind energy turbine capacity by 2020. (2003)
- DRC supports a fair price for small wind generators for the electricity sold back to rural electric cooperatives. (2002)
- DRC supports a public benefits fund payable through utility bills to finance renewable energy research and development in North Dakota. (2002)
- DRC supports state purchase of a set percentage of its electricity from renewable sources. (2002)
- DRC supports a federal renewable energy portfolio standard for all utilities, federal programs to encourage rural energy conservation projects and farmer-owned renewable energy projects, and use of Conservation Reserve Program lands for wind energy development. (2001)
- DRC endorses only new energy development consistent with a 60% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2030. (2005) **Measures should be taken to reduce car exhaust near residential homes, including promotion of electric cars and DRC supports increasing solar and wind energy sources. (2016)**
- DRC opposes the use of eminent domain for construction of private carbon dioxide pipelines and associated infrastructure. (2007)

- DRC urges the repeal of North Dakota Century Code 49-02-23, which prohibits the Public Service Commission from considering "environmental externality values" in planning, acquiring or selection of electric resources, or in the setting of rates. (2006)
- DRC urges the repeal of North Dakota Century Code 49-06-02, which requires the Public Service Commission to consider only investments utilizing lignite coal mined in the state when determining a utility's property value for ratemaking purposes. (2006)
- DRC opposes any new power production that leaves costs and obligations to future generations. (2005)
- DRC opposes removal of PSC oversight of electric utility rates. (2006)
- DRC opposes weakening of federal New Source Review standards for coal-fired power plants. (2002)
- DRC supports the establishment of a new North Dakota State Implementation Plan to address violations of the Clean Air Act's Prevention of Significant Deterioration standards, and to reduce emissions from coal-fired power plants that lack modern pollution controls. (2002)
- DRC supports closing the Clean Air Act loophole that allows grandfathered power plants to pollute at a higher level than new plants. (2000)
- DRC opposes federal energy legislation that allows oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, or that grants new subsidies to the fossil fuel and energy industries. (2001)
- DRC supports EPA enforcement of Regional Haze standards in North Dakota. (2011)
- DRC urges Montana-Dakota Utilities and Otter Tail Power not to accept a rate increase for the purpose of recovering unrealized profits because of the failure of Big Stone II, and urges the utilities to expend any funds from Big Stone rate recovery for energy efficiency programs to benefit ratepayers and reduce carbon dioxide emissions. (2010)
- DRC prefers a carbon tax to a cap-and-trade system for carbon dioxide management and control, opposes any exemptions for power generated by co-operatives, opposes providing electric utilities with free carbon dioxide allowances, and opposes prevention of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from regulating carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. (2007, 2009)
- DRC supports a "no net increase" policy for coal production in North Dakota, supports only new coal-fired power plants that utilize Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) technology in combination with carbon sequestration, and only the following criteria are met: such plants replace existing coal-fired power plants; such plants do not receive public subsidies; best management practices have been developed which guarantee the safety and effectiveness of carbon sequestration; and carbon sequestration is not used for enhanced oil recovery unless long-term net reductions in carbon dioxide can be demonstrated. (2006)
- DRC does not support production of liquid fuels from coal unless it can be demonstrated that such technologies are economically feasible, welcomed by their host communities and result in a net loss of carbon dioxide and other polluting emissions. (2006)
- DRC urges the use of sustainable practices in every facet of biofuels production. (2005, 2006)
- DRC supports a requirement that all diesel fuel sold in North Dakota contain at least 2% biodiesel by 2010 and all gasoline contain at least 20% ethanol by 2013. (2005)

Law and Order in the Coal, Oil and Gas Fields

- **DRC, with leadership from Ft. Berthold POWER, supports the “Just Transition” concept – as renewable energy increases it is planned and based on justice [or – a planned and just movement towards more renewable energy] (2016)**
- DRC opposes weakening state and federal reclamation laws, including North Dakota’s 100% productivity requirement for all reclaimed agricultural lands, or federal enforcement authority. (1990, 1995, 1998)
- DRC opposed the growing industry tendency to seek post-mining land use changes from agriculture to uses that exempt it from meeting productivity requirements. (2010)
- DRC approves the use of independent soil studies to ascertain the success of soil reclamation. (2010)
- DRC urges state rules to require mines to make public their plans for final bond release. (2004)
- DRC urges the U.S. Office of Surface Mining to investigate the slow rate of final bond release applications in North Dakota. (2010)
- DRC calls upon the PSC to require formal bond release and bond recalculation procedures which will include public participation. (2011)
- DRC urges federal standards for coalbed methane development with protections similar to those provided under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. (2000)
- DRC favors a state law requiring coal and oil companies to pay abstract fees resulting from mineral rights transactions with parties other than the surface owner, and a state law forbidding companies from mortgaging surface mineral leases. (1991)
- DRC favors moving the seismic shot hole setback rule from 660 feet to 1,320 feet. (2004)
- DRC supports the reform of standards for surface use agreements to improve the leverage of surface owners and residents who do not hold minerals. (2006)
- DRC supports repeal of the 50% "risk penalty" for non-leasing mineral owners participating in oil extraction. (2005)
- DRC opposes temporary water permits to extraction companies for industrial use. (2005)
- DRC opposes any law or rule interpreting an oil and gas lease as conveying a fresh water right. (2008)
- DRC urges an exhaustive inventory of state aquifers prior to issuance of additional permits for water depots for oil and gas industry use. (2008)
- DRC supports policies designed to guard against leakage from underground pipes transferring saltwater produced in oil and gas operations to disposal wells. (2006)
- DRC opposes any use of waste oilfield saltwater for de-icing North Dakota roads. (2007)
- DRC supports government accountability or “public trust” of our natural resources and will support efforts for an inventory and remediation plan of salt damaged lands. (2013)
- DRC urges federal legislation to close the “Halliburton loophole” and allow regulation of hydraulic fracturing fluids under the Safe Water Drinking Act. (2009)
- DRC urges federal legislation to confer to private landowners above federal oil and gas reserves the right to know in advance when those reserves are offered for lease and when drilling operations are to commence, and to require a good-faith offer of a surface use agreement prior to surface occupancy. (2009)

- DRC supports an increase in state oil and gas well reclamation bonding sufficient to protect the public against clean-up costs. (2006)
- DRC supports Department of Mineral Resources rulemaking on oilfield waste that increases bonds, moves to a closed-loop system for wells of all depths, requires full disclosure of contents of hydraulic fracturing fluids, includes local public involvement in siting facilities, includes environmental record of companies and selects sites based on environmental suitability rather than expedience. (2011)
- DRC will work to require oil field waste disposal companies to protect sources of water with the requirements covering liners that protect against contamination, transportation by licensed and bonded companies in trucks with tracking systems and maps readily available on the State Water Commission website. (2014)
- DRC supports enforcement of proper disposal in federally approved hazardous waste sites outside North Dakota of all radioactive waste from oil and gas extraction and maintaining the five (5) picocuries per gram limit in the state. (2013)
- DRC will work to maintain local control of waste facilities, including the ability to call for special county elections. (2014)
- DRC urges BLM and the legislature to enact site specific bonding for oil development so landowners and taxpayers are not obligated to pay for damages. (2012)
- DRC calls for legislation to require forfeiture of leases on the part that the oil and gas company does not meet the bonus payment terms of a mineral lease. (2011)
- DRC urges officials to conduct comprehensive pipe safety testing of the Keystone Pipeline and to reduce allowed pressure to normal federal standings pending the test outcome. (2010)
- DRC opposes construction of the Keystone XL pipeline and will work jointly with others in the affected areas to develop a coordinated strategy of opposition. (2011)
- DRC opposes the Dakota Access Pipeline under current regulations and will work to ensure waters which lead elsewhere will not be jeopardized, will work to protect landowners, farmers, ranchers, all citizens, environment, water and lands impacted by pipelines, and in the future will consider how each pipeline affects the land, air, water safety, the North Dakota plains, water and human lives. (2015)
- DRC supports changing the oil tax revenue allotment formula so 60% goes to the oil-impacted counties for needed infrastructure and human services. (2012, 2014)
- DRC supports protection of Theodore Roosevelt National Park and its viewshed from oil and gas development. (2013) **DRC, through Badlands Area Resource Council, opposes locating the Davis Refinery adjacent to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. (2016)**
- DRC supports a more carefully measured and balanced oil and gas permitting process with a higher priority on infrastructure and public safety and DRC will promote North Dakota's quality of life and identify the costs of the lack of regulatory enforcement. (2013)
- DRC supports creating an oil and gas permitting agency - separate from the North Dakota Industrial Commission - composed of at least 7 voting members, including landowners, mineral owners and local governments. (2014)
- DRC demands an independent, unbiased performance audit of the enforcement compliance of the Water Commission, Oil and Gas Division, and Health Department and DRC will run a media campaign to hold officials accountable for this. (2014)

- DRC will organize to monitor state agencies to ensure current laws are being enforced and DRC task forces will include a focus on monitoring state agency implementation of laws relating to the task force issue. (2012)
- DRC requests the Industrial Commission ensure safe crude rail transportation by mandating the oil industry build infrastructure for statewide stabilization methods by 2017. (2014)

Corporate Accountability

- DRC supports a state requirement that businesses receiving public incentives pay a living wage to all employees, that every such incentive be voted on by a publicly elected body with the right of public hearing in the locality affected, that businesses give a full accounting of the benefits produced through incentives, and that the state or political subdivision retain the right to reclaim incentive payments if the agreement terms are not met. (2001)
- DRC supports the WORC position on reform of the 1872 Mining Law to include public involvement in hard rock mining permitting on public lands, environmental standards for reclamation and operation, and just public compensation. (1994)
- DRC opposes legislation that makes corporate environmental self-audits privileged information and grants complete immunity from penalties for violations discovered in self-audits, but it supports comprehensive audits whose results are accessible to the public, and it supports the concept of reduced penalties for companies that assume responsibility for correcting violations. (1995)
- DRC opposes legislation that expands the concept of takings. (1995)
- DRC urges the state legislature to overturn the law preventing the Health Department from issuing regulations more stringent than the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. (1992)
- DRC opposes legislation making risk assessment and cost-benefit analysis the paramount consideration in public health and safety rules, opposes elevation of peer review over public comment, opposes administrative determination of the monetary value of human life, and opposes opening administrative channels for challenging existing rules. (1995)
- DRC supports the expansion of the federal Toxic Release Inventory to include the public's right to know what toxic chemicals are used in the manufacturing process. (1996)

Miscellaneous

- DRC urges the support of locally-owned businesses. (2004)
- DRC calls for legislation to reform eminent domain law to clarify considerations, restrict its use for privately owned pipelines, require a guide outlining property owner rights, and establishing a process to hear and take action regarding unfair and illegal tactics. (2011)
- DRC urges amendment of state eminent domain laws to outlaw the taking of private property for private development. (2005)
- DRC supports protection of landowner's rights against trespass on unposted land. (2003)
- DRC supports retaining public ownership of state correctional facility lands along the Missouri River. (2009)
- DRC supports planned development in overlapping jurisdictions in North Dakota through joint decision-making by all affected governments. (2008)

- DRC disavows the use of violence to achieve any of its goals. (2003)
- DRC will not accept grants from the federal government, but will accept state grants for Kidwind educational programs if no state agency has direct sponsorship of program. (2009)