



THE
FERTILIZER
INSTITUTE

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2021 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES



The fertilizer supply chain supports nearly 500,000 high-quality American jobs and has an economic impact of more than \$130 billion annually, supporting communities in all 50 states. Our industry is essential to ensuring that American farmers receive the nutrients they need to enrich the soil and, in turn, grow the crops that feed our nation and the world.

Indeed, fertilizer is a key ingredient in feeding a growing global population, which is expected to surpass 9.5 billion people by 2050. Half of all food grown around the world today is made possible only through fertilizer. As food demand grows, farmers around the world will continue to rely on fertilizer to increase production efficiency by producing more food while using less land.

TFI's 2021 Public Policy Priorities concentrate on the following key areas:

Energy and Economic Growth – Support policies that ensure safe and secure access to energy and natural resources to strengthen the global competitiveness of the US fertilizer industry.

Environment – Promote essential plant nutrition for agricultural production while minimizing the environmental impact of fertilizer production and use.

Innovation – Foster innovation and fertilizer product developments and technologies with efficient, science-based paths to market.

Safety and Security – Safe and secure production, storage and distribution of fertilizers is paramount. Advance policies and information sharing that promote safe and secure production, storage and distribution of essential fertilizer products.

Trade – Support free trade policies that open markets and foster a level playing field for our products and our farmer customers that depend on them.

Transportation and Infrastructure – Advocate for policies that promote competition among different modes of transport, improve transportation infrastructure, and ensure fertilizer products can be distributed safely and efficiently.

Environment

TFI advances sustainable plant nutrition by minimizing the environmental impact of fertilizer, including production and use.

Climate Change

TFI and our members recognize the ongoing concerns and complexities associated with a changing climate. Fertilizer manufacturers continue to invest significant amounts of capital to implement innovative and more efficient ways to operate, including reducing GHGs. Climate change policies should ensure the U.S. fertilizer industry is globally competitive so that it can continue its critical role in maximizing the efficiency of agricultural production and in global food security.

- Climate change policies must provide a level playing field to ensure the global competitiveness of the U.S. fertilizer industry and our farmer customers.
- TFI supports policies that reduce regulatory barriers and new technologies and best practices that drive efficiency in plant nutrient production and nutrient use.

Nutrient Stewardship

4R Nutrient Stewardship is a framework for sustainable nutrient management that helps farmers maximize crop yields while minimizing the environmental impact of nutrient use.

- TFI supports policies that recognize the important role of agricultural retailers, who provide agronomic assistance to farmers looking to plan and implement 4R practices.
- TFI supports voluntary programs, such as the working lands programs in the Farm Bill and carbon credit markets, that provide incentives for farmers to adopt conservation practices, including the 4Rs, on the farm.
- TFI requests that Congress include funding to support 4R research in the annual agriculture appropriations bill.
- The 4Rs should be included in state plans to minimize nutrient loss from non-point sources, and we oppose state nutrient loss reduction plans that are not based on sound-science or are impractical for farmers.

Environmental Justice

TFI and its members recognize the importance of protecting the environment in communities in which they operate and support science-based, targeted regulatory approaches to achieving such objectives.

- Environmental reviews for permitting, including environmental justice screening, should be fair, equitable, and streamlined.

Energy and Economic Growth

Fertilizer production is inherently energy intensive. Natural gas is a critical production input for nitrogen and phosphate fertilizers. For nitrogen, natural gas accounts for 70 to 90 percent of manufacturing costs.

- TFI supports energy policies that leverage abundant and affordable sources of energy, including natural gas supplies, to promote the global competitiveness of U.S. fertilizer manufacturers.

Transportation and Infrastructure

TFI supports policies that promote the safe, timely, and efficient distribution of fertilizers. Fertilizer moves on the waterways, highways, railroads, and pipelines. Distribution bottlenecks and service issues can restrict nutrient access during key utilization periods, leading to reduced crop yields.

- TFI supports Surface Transportation Board (STB) regulatory reforms that promote rail competition, fair rail rates and demurrage practices, and reliable service.
- TFI supports policies that address trucking capacity and enhance safety and efficiencies, including hours of service (HOS) modifications and young professional driver apprenticeship programs, and modernizing truck weight standards.
- TFI supports policies -- including authorization of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and appropriations -- that promote strong funding for water infrastructure to address an estimated \$8 billion backlog in maintenance.

Trade

Fertilizer is a globally traded commodity that can be affected by governmental policies around the world. TFI supports efforts to ensure the availability of fertilizer for utilization by American farmers, food producers and industrial users and the ability of our members to trade in foreign markets.

- TFI supports trade agreements and enforceable global trade rules that promote open markets and fair competition.

Safety and Security

The safety and security of fertilizer facility employees and those who reside in surrounding communities is a key priority for the fertilizer industry. As such, TFI members go to great lengths to implement safety programs and adhere to state and federal regulations from multiple governing agencies.

- TFI supports implementation of a streamlined and workable ammonium nitrate security program at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). TFI will continue to collaborate with policymakers on a potential program sought by DHS that includes additional improvised explosive device (IED) precursors.
- TFI supports ResponsibleAg and continues to encourage policymakers and regulators to identify ways to recognize and award participants in this program for working toward the shared goal of increased awareness and compliance with federal regulations.
- TFI supports partnering with the public and private sector to collaborate and promote worker and community safety and encourages OSHA's use of cooperative programs, such as the OSHA Fertilizer Safety and Health Partners Alliance.

Innovation

The fertilizer industry continuously invests in innovative fertilizer products, practices, and technologies to improve plant nutrition, with net environmental benefit. Specialty products (biostimulants, enhanced efficiency fertilizers, slow and controlled-release products, and micronutrients) should have a clear and science-based path to market.

- TFI supports a uniform national framework that can be utilized by States to harmonize regulatory approval of current and other innovative plant nutrition products.
- TFI will advocate for legislative amendments exempting biostimulants and removing nitrification inhibitors from the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).
- TFI will pursue a streamlined FIFRA registration process allowing new nitrification inhibitors access to the market with reduced regulatory and resource requirements.



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4201 Wilson Blvd
Suite 700
Arlington, VA 22203
www.tfi.org