

Investing in Climate Resilience

Whereas climate change has consequences for the livelihoods of family farmers, the health and safety of our communities, and economy of our state and nation.

Whereas each season, farmers of all sizes and production types are confronted with the effects of climate change, including drought, excess rainfall during harvest, collapsed grain bins, hoop houses, and other structures, excessive heat, and increased pressure from plant and animal disease.

Whereas, in the face of these challenges, family farmers are coming up with ways to remain resilient, adapt to new challenges, and take on-farm action to lower emissions.

Whereas the adoption of new policies and technologies has quickened, making it essential that family farmers be at the table for conversations about resource allocation, land use, power generation, grid reliability, and programs aimed at harnessing the potential of working lands.

Therefore, be it resolved that MFU supports state and federal action to help farmers make their farms and communities more resilient, including by:

- 1) Expanding voluntary publicly funded conservation programs that incentivize on-the-ground practices, promote soil health, and improve the climate. These programs should:
 - a) Be easily accessible,
 - b) Allow participation by early adopters,
 - c) Prioritize beginning farmers,
 - d) Help farmers earn equitable payments above implementation costs, and
 - e) Address economic losses during transition to practices.
- 2) Fully funding research at land-grant universities to research and scale new crops and practices that can improve farm finances and make them more resilient.
- 3) Removing the sales tax on fencing equipment, promoting flexibility in conservation programs, and establishing other incentives for grazing.
- 4) Supporting farmers markets, food hubs, and other direct-market entities in protecting from heat stress and making their operations more sustainable.
- 5) Creating opportunities for farmers to financially benefit from an energy transition, including cooperative ownership of green fertilizer production.
- 6) Expanding the use of biofuels, including by moving to higher blends, implementing farmer-friendly incentives, and promoting advanced biofuels across the transportation sector.
- 7) Expanding farm-scale renewable energy through tax credits, cost share incentives, and technical assistance.

And be it further resolved that as new projects and technologies are deployed to address climate change, policymakers are careful to protect the rights of family farmers including by:

- 1) Ensuring transparent contracts, fair compensation, and guarantees to promptly resolve any ill effects.
- 2) Promoting farmer and worker ownership of renewable energy projects, including through the cooperative model.