

2021 MSGA Legislative Priorities

MSGA is ready to play defense and protect soybean farmers in 2021 while looking for opportunities to help soybean farmers succeed.

FIGHT REGULATORY OVERREACH

MSGA has successfully prevented efforts to further regulate use of agriculture chemicals. Although bills limiting use of ag chemicals are expected to be introduced, the GOP's Senate majority is unlikely to pass such measures.

MSGA, a member of the Minnesota Broadband Coalition, will continue pushing for infrastructure investments along with a slew of other policy goals: lifting truck weight limits, funding to combat invasive species, protecting land property rights, grain bin safety and increased rural mental health resources.

ADVOCATE AGAINST TAX INCREASES

In the past 2 years, MSGA secured some of its biggest wins with full Section 179 conformity in October 2020 and both the school building bond ag credit and the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit in 2019. While no new taxes went into effect for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, MSGA will continue to advocate against any tax increases for farmers.

VALUE-ADDED AG

MSGA is a staunch proponent of promoting value-added agriculture products. The Ag Innovation Campus, Plasma Blue technology and RePlay's biobased road sealant each aim to increase the profitability for Minnesota's nearly 28,000 soybean farmers. MSGA will work with legislators and the Walz administration to promote the economic and environmental benefits of these value-added endeavors.

PUSH BACK AGAINST THE CLEAN CARS RULE

MSGA is opposed to the state of Minnesota adopting and implementing another state's greenhouse gas reduction goals. Minnesota has been a leader in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through our own rules and regulations. We should remain a leader, not a follower, in this arena. Here in Minnesota, using B20 in the summer and B5 in the winter equates to removing the emissions from nearly 230,000 vehicles from the roads each year. Shoehorning Minnesota into the California system and Clean Air Act (CAA) waiver system will result in needless rulemaking in the future.

BIENNIUM BUDGET

In December, the state budget forecast was revised to a projected \$641 million surplus for the 2020-2021 biennium. MSGA will advocate with legislators to ensure agriculture, which accounts for approximately 25 percent of the state's GDP, is a budgetary priority.

PROTECT BIODIESEL

Minnesota enters the fourth season of its B20 mandate. Renewable fuels have faced opposition - and support - from both sides of the aisle. With climate change and electric cars discussions ramping up, MSGA won't play it safe in 2021. MSGA participated in the Governor's Council on Biofuels and urged the Walz administration to order the state fleet to use higher blends of biodiesel. The council also discussed moving to a B30 blend in the future.

