

Economic Growth, Trade, & Energy Priorities



Issues at a Glance

Agricultural retailers are essential to the strength and competitiveness of American agriculture. They supply farmers with crop nutrients, crop protection products, seed, equipment, precision technologies, and agronomic expertise that drive productivity and sustainability.

To maintain a resilient food, fiber, and energy system, federal policy must promote economic growth, open markets, regulatory certainty, domestic energy production, and innovation in biofuels and crop input manufacturing.

ARA supports policies that strengthen U.S. agriculture's global competitiveness, lower production costs, expand domestic energy opportunities, and provide retailers and farmers with the certainty needed to invest and grow.

Why These Issues Matter

American agriculture operates in a global marketplace while facing rising input costs, volatile commodity prices, geopolitical instability, and supply chain disruptions. Policies that restrict trade, increase regulatory burdens, or raise energy and fertilizer costs directly impact farmers' bottom lines and the rural economy.

At the same time, agriculture is a cornerstone of U.S. energy security. Biofuels, sustainable aviation fuel, and domestic crop input production reduce dependence on foreign sources while creating rural jobs and new markets for farmers.



A pro-growth economic and energy agenda ensures:



Lower costs for farmers and agricultural retailers



Stronger rural communities



Expanded export opportunities



Increased domestic manufacturing of crop inputs



Greater national food and energy security

ARA's Economic Growth & Trade Priorities



Promote Free Agricultural Trade

ARA supports policies that promote the free trade of agricultural products, equipment, and crop input materials. Open markets reduce supply disruptions and expand opportunities for American farmers.



Support full implementation and enforcement of the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA).



Support free trade of fertilizer, crop protection products, and equipment.



Expand market access for U.S. agricultural exports.

ARA's Energy Priorities

1. *Increase Domestic Energy Production*

Energy is a major input cost for fertilizer production, transportation, and on-farm operations.

- Support federal policies that increase domestic energy production.
- Reduce production costs for crop input materials manufactured in the U.S.

2. *Support All Liquid Fuels*

ARA supports a diverse, reliable energy portfolio.

- Work with industry coalitions to promote oil, natural gas, biofuels, and emerging technologies.
- Reduce reliance on foreign energy sources.

3. *Protect and Strengthen the Renewable Fuel Standard*

The Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) provides critical demand stability for corn and soybean growers.

- Oppose cuts or rollbacks to the RFS.
- Support regulatory certainty in Renewable Volume Obligations (RVOs).

4. *Support Year-Round E15*

ARA supports year-round sales of E15 to provide consumers with greater fuel choice and strengthen rural economies.

- Support the Nationwide Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act of 2025 (H.R. 1346 / S. 593).
- Enable nationwide, permanent year-round E15 access.

5. *Protect Consumer Vehicle Choice*

Energy policy should not eliminate affordable and practical vehicle options.

- Support policies that protect internal combustion engine vehicles.
- Promote low-carbon biofuels as part of emissions reduction strategies.

6. *Protect Rural Hydropower Infrastructure*

Hydropower provides renewable energy and supports inland water transportation.

- Oppose removal of hydropower dams critical to rural energy reliability and agricultural transport.



Bottom Line

Agricultural retailers are central to America's food and energy systems. Policies that promote economic growth, open trade, domestic energy production, fertilizer security, and biofuel innovation strengthen the entire agricultural value chain — from manufacturers to retailers to farmers.

ARA supports a forward-looking economic and energy agenda that lowers costs, expands markets, enhances national security, and ensures American agriculture remains competitive, productive, and resilient for generations to come.