



# ***Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association***

*An association of commercial vegetable, potato and berry growers.*

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## **Federal Legislative Priorities for 2022**

*The Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association is an association of commercial vegetable, potato and berry growers with over 850 members representing an industry that annually produces crops valued at over \$147 million on 3,950 farms with 50,000 acres of farmland across the Commonwealth.*

## **Federal Legislative Priorities for 2022**

### **Labor**

**Immigration and Farm Labor Reform** – Our members regularly list immigration reform and labor availability as one of their main legislative concerns. Our growers need an affordable and dependable labor supply to stay in business. We need immigration reform that creates a legal labor force with reasonable verification requirements. A mandatory E-verify bill without a an improved agricultural guest worker (H-2A) program would be disastrous for American agriculture.

### **Environmental**

**Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Regulations** – Local governments are imposing burdensome costs on Pennsylvania farms as they seek to cover their costs of complying with this federal mandate.

### **Food Safety**

**Food Safety Modernization Act – Water Use Rule** – We support safe food production systems, but these mandates should not be so burdensome so as to prevent our small growers from competing in the marketplace for negligible improvement in food safety.

### **Appropriations**

**Specialty Crop Funding** – The Specialty Crop Block Grants have been a major source of funding for our industry's promotion and research activities. These funds need to be maintained.

**Land Grant Agricultural Research and Extension Funding** – Federal funding of these key agricultural support programs has continued to dwindle. Farmers depend on the research and extension activities of their land grant institutions.

**Nutrition Funding** - The Farmers' Market Nutrition Program for Women, Infant, Children clients and senior citizens is of great benefit to both of these groups and our growers.

### **Taxes and Health Care Costs**

**Health Insurance** - Most of our members are self-employed and/or small employers. Spiraling health insurance costs threaten their ability to expand or even maintain their operations.

**Business Depreciation Deduction Limit (Section 179)** – This limit needs to remain at least at \$1,000,000.

**Inheritance Tax** – This tax should be eliminated.

# *Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association*



## **2022 Policy Resolutions**

*The Members of the Association recently adopted these additions to our Policy Resolutions putting the Association on record as:*

### **Federal Resolutions**

1. Opposing any further regulations of fertilizer for ag use.
2. Supporting the appointment of Farm Service Agency State Committee members from nominations provided by state agricultural organizations with the terms staggered between presidential terms rather on a political patronage basis.
3. Supporting federal legislation allowing vehicles with farm plate registrations to travel throughout the 48 contiguous states with no distance limitations.
4. Supporting the exemption from regulation of privately owned bodies of water, used exclusively for farm use

*The Association's complete Policy Resolutions are available at [www.pvga.org](http://www.pvga.org)*