

## ***VII. GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS***

### ***A. PRIVATE PROPERTY***

**MINERAL RIGHTS (2011).** We resolve that parties retaining mineral rights on property should pay a portion of the property tax.

**PROPERTY RIGHTS (2011).** We support private property rights. Government should provide due process and compensation to the exact degree that an owner's right to use his property has been diminished by government action. We believe that the only just basis for compensation in such cases is fair market value. Agencies should show just cause and cost for each regulation and these should be made public so the agencies can be held accountable.

We oppose the state relinquishing jurisdictional authority of any type that would allow Indian tribes (tribal governments) to govern or regulate lands owned in whole or in part by non-Indians or a non-member of the tribe.

We oppose legislation which would allow a group of private landowners within a defined geographic area to establish a government entity for wildlife conservation with the power to raise revenue or govern the actions of other landowners whose property is located within the geographic area.

### ***B. ELECTIONS/ELECTIVE OFFICES***

**JUDICIAL APPOINTMENT (2007).** We recommend the Governor appoint District and County Judges.

**PETITION PROCESS (2011).** We support tightening the signature collection requirements of Nebraska's initiative petition process. We favor changes that would require a percentage of petition signatures be collected from every legislative district. We oppose the use of the internet or other electronic media to collect signatures.

We believe candidates seeking to have their name placed on the ballot for county or local government offices by the petition process need to have signatures equal to at least 30% of the total votes cast for Governor or President of the United States at the immediately preceding general election within the county or political subdivision.

### ***C. STATE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS***

**RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS (2011).** We believe rural areas should have access to affordable and reliable telecommunications services and support the Federal and Nebraska Universal Services' Funds. We oppose diverting dollars from these funds for other non-communication related purposes. We support ways to improve and expand local service options and improve equity in high speed access between rural and urban areas.

**STATE FAIR (2008).** We encourage the Legislature to increase its support of the State Fair as a way to promote and educate its citizens about the number one industry-agriculture. We oppose the relocation of the Nebraska State Fair unless the Nebraska State Fair Board, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the Legislature reach a mutually agreeable solution that will enhance the

mission of the State Fair by providing an equal or better venue for showcasing agriculture to the general public.

**STATE PROCUREMENT (2009).** We believe payment of state purchases should be made in a more prompt and timely fashion. We believe all maintenance projects that can minimize costs by using private contractors should do so.

***D. POLITICAL ACCOUNTABILITY***

**TERM LIMITS (2011).** We favor repeal of term limits on state senators or the extension of term limits to three terms.

**UNICAMERAL (2011).** We support keeping state legislative positions non-partisan.

We support the adoption of a redistricting plan which preserves as many rural seats as possible.