

## **PABC 2017 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

### **1. Maintain Agribusiness Sales Tax Exemptions/Property Tax Assessments**

*A House Tax Policy Review Committee is reviewing all tax exemptions. PABC supports maintaining these important sales tax exemptions and property tax assessments for agribusiness.*

### **2. Highway Infrastructure - Long-term funding for Roads/Bridges**

*Although a road funding bill was passed in 2016 which allows the use of \$212 million in redirected existing fees and other revenue to bond up to \$2.2 billion in one-time funding through the State Infrastructure Bank, there is still a need for a sustainable and long-term funding mechanism for an efficient highway system.*

### **3. Surface Water Withdrawal**

*A bill H.3564- Surface Water Withdrawal Registration was introduced in 2015 but was not passed. This bill would amend the Surface Water Permitting Act of 2010 and place agriculture registrations into a permitting and public appeal situation. Legislation is expected to be introduced in 2017 that would address surface water and groundwater withdrawal regulations. PABC believes that no changes should be made until the completion of the Statewide Assessment of Water Resources and be based on sound science.*

### **4. Poultry Permitting**

*Poultry is one of SC's top agribusiness industries. PABC supports a more efficient permitting process (by regulatory or legislative) which allows this industry to remain competitive and expanding in SC.*

### **5. Private Property Rights-Eminent Domain**

*Bill S. 868 (PABC supported as a private property rights issue) was passed by the General Assembly, which prohibits private unregulated companies from having eminent domain authority. A Petroleum Pipeline Study Committee was established to review the issue while a moratorium was put in place to prevent petroleum privately-owned pipeline companies from using eminent domain until the Committee makes a recommendation. PABC supports monitoring the study committee review.*

### **6. Business License Fees**

*Under the current system, businesses pay a unique license fee based on a percentage of the gross income of that business, and cities and towns create multiple classifications for businesses, each with a different tax rate. Support a better integrated system of determining business license fees and a cap on the amount local governments can charge.*

### **7. Agency Funding**

*Support funding for the budget requests of the SC Department of Agriculture, SC Forestry Commission and Clemson PSA.*

### **8. Feral Hog Bill**

*Feral hogs cause extensive damage to land and crops, as well as carry disease harmful to livestock. Support public and farmer education to address the problems, as well as a bill that deals with issues of trapping and transporting feral hogs.*

### **9. Dams and Reservoirs Standards**

*PABC supports insuring that any new dam and pond regulations are reasonable and not burdensome for landowners.*

### **10. Tort Reform**

#### **• CDL Employer Protection Act**

*The CDL Protection Act is currently in the Senate Judiciary Committee. This Act addresses limiting the liability of companies employing Commercial Driver's License holders, contracted or not contracted.*

#### **• Other Tort Reform Issues – Workers Compensation, Modify punitive damages claims in Motor Vehicle Crash Cases. PABC continues to support civil justice reform.**

## **FEDERAL**

### **Immigration (State/Federal)**

*For agribusiness to remain profitable and in business, we must have federal immigration reform that allows access to a stable and legal workforce.*

**Energy Issues**

Although PABC has not taken a position on offshore drilling, we work in partnership with the Consumer Energy Alliance to support the exploration of the Atlantic region to find out what energy resources are along South Carolina's coastline. Obtaining an updated oil and gas resource study through seismic testing is critical to ensuring informed decisions related to possible future Atlantic oil and gas development.