

Illinois Republican Party 2024 Resolution

In Support of the Protection of Illinois and United States Agricultural Land, Food and Pharmaceutical Supply Chain

WHEREAS, the Illinois Republican Party alongside the Republican National Committee (RNC) is committed to protect Illinois and United States' critical infrastructure on behalf of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois and United States food and agricultural supply chain falls within the definition of critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, millions of acres of United States farm land have been taken out of food production due to various factors; and

WHEREAS, small farmers and ranchers are struggling due to inflation, tax increases, fuel and fertilizer costs, and issues involving foreign influence over our food and agricultural supply chain; and

WHEREAS, the global food and agricultural supply chain was damaged by COVID-19, including but not limited to, harvesting, logistics, processing, marketing and sourcing, making it imperative to provide meaningful protection with respect to the national food supply chain; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, a Chinese firm Shuanghui, now doing business as WH Group, purchased Smithfield Food, Inc. and took possession of 42,000 acres of agricultural land in Missouri, in addition to over 146,000 acres of farmland across the country, which allows it to control a significant portion of U.S. pork production; and

WHEREAS, the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) of 1978 fails to ban or limit foreign investment, but instead simply requires foreign entities to self-report their purchases of farmland to the USDA, and although the Act allows for steep penalties, enforcement is rare; and

WHEREAS, six states ban foreign ownership of United States agricultural land and approximately 22 states have passed some regulation of foreign ownership, there is no uniformity of statutory protection with meaningful enforcement mechanisms to protect the U.S. food and agricultural supply chain; and

WHEREAS, there are too few definitive studies of the potential multitude of cascading effects of foreign investment in the U.S. food and agricultural supply chain; and

WHEREAS, as part of Agenda 47, President Trump took historic action in 2020 to ensure essential medicines were produced in the United States, only to have Joe Biden reverse the order in 2021, resulting in severe shortages of over 295 medications—a record five-year high – creating a public health crisis and a national security crisis; and

WHEREAS, that as part of Agenda 47, President Trump's plan to obtain total independence from China and unsafe foreign countries required that restrictions be phased in to bring back production of all essential medicines to the United States, and that while President Trump signed an executive order to begin this process in 2020, Joe Biden shamefully failed to follow through, ending it in April 2021 so that he could better support China, thereby keeping America dependent on foreign countries for its most critical medical needs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Illinois Republican Party, along with the Republican National Committee, urges the U.S. Congress and Illinois Legislature to take action that ensures the Illinois and U.S. agricultural and food supply chains are protected, and that for purposes of national and state law, agricultural land is deemed an integral part of the United States' critical infrastructure and is afforded the utmost protection; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Illinois Republican Party supports reasonable restrictions to protect the American food and supply chain via both state and federal legislation involving foreign governments and foreign entities that purchase U.S. farmland, and for national security reasons, that legislation must have teeth to stop foreign governments and entities from controlling the U.S. agricultural and food supply chain; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Illinois Republican Party supports keeping agricultural land and food processing in the hands of the Illinois and U.S. farmer, and the nation's agricultural intellectual property secure for the preservation of American agriculture, America's future prosperity, and to prevent the potential weaponization of genetically modified organisms such as genetically modified seeds to wipe out U.S. crops and sicken the population; and

BE IT RESOLVED, the Illinois Republican Party supports the labeling of our food to include its country of origin; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Illinois Republican Party supports the return of manufacturing of critical, essential medicines to the United States as a matter of both public health safety and national security.

Adopted and affirmed by the Platform and Resolutions Committee on May 24, 2024 in Collinsville, Illinois and agreed upon by the state convention delegates on May 25, 2024