

THE FERTILIZER INSTITUTE

Public Policy Priorities 2023-2024



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The fertilizer supply chain supports nearly 500,000 high-quality American jobs and has an economic impact of more than \$130 billion annually, supporting communities in all 50 states. Our industry is essential to ensuring that American farmers receive the nutrients they need to enrich the soil and, in turn, grow the crops that feed our nation and the world.

Indeed, fertilizer is a key ingredient in feeding a growing global population, which is expected to surpass 10 billion people by 2050. Half of all food grown around the world today is made possible only through fertilizer. As food demand grows, farmers around the world will continue to rely on fertilizer to increase production efficiency by producing more food while using less land.

TFI's 2023-2024 Public Policy Priorities concentrate on the following key areas:

Economic Growth & Competitiveness – Champion policies that strengthen the global competitiveness of the US fertilizer industry; support policies ensuring safe and secure access to energy and natural resources; and, seek reasonable tax laws and equitable trade practices in order to foster a level playing field for our products and for our farmer customers.

Transportation & Infrastructure – Support policies that promote access to competitive transportation options and ensure fertilizer products can be distributed safely and efficiently.

Environment – Advocate for essential plant nutrition in agricultural production while minimizing the environmental footprint of fertilizer production and use.

Safety and Security – Advance policies and information sharing to promote safe and secure production and distribution of essential fertilizer products.

Farm Bill Reauthorization – Promote education and strengthen industry reputation to support nutrient enhancement and voluntary adoption of conservation practices such as the 4Rs because food security is national and international security.

Permitting & Registration – Push to streamline costly federal review process when pursuing permits for water, air, land-use, mining, or pipelines.

Innovation – Foster innovation and fertilizer product developments and technologies with efficient, science-based paths to market.

Economic Growth & Competitiveness

Fertilizer is a globally-traded commodity where its manufacture and distribution are affected by the policies of different governments around the world. TFI supports:

- Safeguarding the global competitiveness of the U.S. fertilizer production industry and ensuring safe and secure access to abundant and affordable sources of energy such as natural gas, which is a critical production input for nitrogen and phosphate fertilizers.
- Developing and implementing modern and updated tax policies that enable the U.S. fertilizer industry to compete in domestic and foreign markets.
- Trade agreements and enforceable global trade rules that promote open markets and fair competition, including the ability of the U.S. to enforce trade remedy laws involving antidumping, and countervailing duties to counteract trade-distorting foreign practices in both market and nonmarket economies; TFI will remain a neutral party in trade remedy cases.
- Preventing the establishment of trade barriers through the misuse of regulations and technical standards by harmonizing fertilizer production standards as they are considered by organizations such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

Transportation & Infrastructure

Railroads, highways, waterways, and pipelines are critical to ensuring that farmers receive their fertilizer in a safe, timely, and efficient manner. Distribution bottlenecks and service issues can restrict nutrient access during key utilization periods, leading to reduced crop yields. Safe, efficient, and affordable transportation is needed for our nation's competitive advantage. TFI supports:

- Strong public funding and financial incentives to upgrade and modernize our infrastructure to address multi-billion-dollar backlogs in maintenance.
- Ensuring safe and efficient fertilizer distribution through promoting competition among different transportation modes.
- Surface Transportation Board (STB) reforms that enable more reliable service and greater rail competition, as well as fair rates and demurrage practices.
- Addressing trucking capacity and enhancing safety and efficiencies through hours of service (HOS) modifications for agriculture haulers, young professional driver apprenticeship programs, and updated truck weight standards.

Environment

Availability of clean air and water, and of natural gas as a cleaner-burning fuel and feedstock, are all critical to fertilizer manufacturing. Additionally, fertilizer manufacturers invest significant amounts of capital to implement innovative and more efficient ways to operate, reduce GHGs, and protect the environment of the individual communities in which they operate. TFI supports:

- Science-based, targeted federal and state environmental policies that enable the U.S. fertilizer industry to remain globally competitive.
- The 4R Nutrient Stewardship framework for sustainable nutrient management, which helps farmers maximize crop yields, while promoting efficient fertilizer usage and minimizing environmental impacts on soil, air, and water.
- Incentivizing production efficiencies and alternative production methods including those involving low-carbon production, as well as incentivizing efficiencies in energy usage, transportation, and industry practices such as carbon capture and sequestration.
- Policies for calculating GHG that take into account industry practices such as carbon recycling for production of urea or beverages, or for use in enhanced oil recovery.
- Promoting the beneficial reuse of manufacturing by-products such as phosphogypsum.

Safety & Security

Safe and secure production, storage, and distribution of fertilizers to avoid risk to fertilizer facility employees and nearby communities is a key priority for the fertilizer industry. Accordingly, TFI members go to great lengths to implement safety programs and adhere to state and federal regulations. TFI supports:

- Policies and information-sharing to promote safe and secure production, storage, and distribution of essential fertilizer products, such as implementation of a streamlined and workable ammonium nitrate security program at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).
- Collaborating with the public and private sectors to promote worker and community safety and encourage OSHA's use of cooperative programs, such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Fertilizer Safety and Health Partners Alliance.
- Promoting federal standards involving industry collaboration for both enhancing protection of critical infrastructure facilities through the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs or drones) and through reauthorization of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS).

Farm Bill Authorization

Food security is national and international security. Fertilizer availability and smart application drive better yields, which in turn promote greater individual and collective health, wealth, and well-being. The timeliness of the Farm Bill provides an opportunity to promote the fertilizer industry and its reputation through engagement and education. TFI supports:

- Promoting the growth of a resilient, competitive, and sustainable U.S. fertilizer industry for America's farmers.
- Policies that recognize the important role agricultural retailers play in providing agronomic assistance to farmers.
- The evidence-based 4R framework's voluntary nutrient management practices, federal funding of 4R research, and state 4R certification and inclusion of the 4Rs in state plans to minimize nutrient loss from non-point sources.
- The ResponsibleAg program's focus on increasing awareness and compliance, as well as related tours for policymakers to inform them about industry safety, training, and certification efforts.
- Recognizing Certified Crop Advisors (CCA) as Technical Service Providers (TSP) under the USDA National Rural Conservation Service to enable greater cost-share opportunities for growers as retailers' customers.
- Financially incentivizing growers through use of the Conservation Service Model to utilize conservation and environmental best practices such as sequestering carbon or nutrients in the soil.

Permitting & Registration

Fertilizer manufacturers face extended periods undergoing federal review at considerable cost when pursuing permits for water, air, land-use, mining, or pipelines. TFI supports:

- Legislation and policies that streamline permitting, reduce duplicative burdens, and provide clear and timely paths to final approvals; efficiencies that will make the U.S. more self-reliant and prosperous.
- Designation of Phosphate and Potash and other minerals necessary for the production of fertilizer as critical minerals under the US Geological Survey standards, as well as accompanying modest modifications to NEPA.
- Policies that ensure all metrics for obtaining permits are fair, reliable, and uncomplicated.

Innovation

To improve plant nutrition and provide environmental benefits, the fertilizer industry invests in innovative fertilizer products, practices, and technologies. Specialty products such as biostimulants, enhanced efficiency fertilizers, slow and controlled-release products, and micronutrients should have a clear and science-based path to market. TFI supports:

- Promoting biostimulants as beneficial substances, and exempting biostimulants from the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).
- Reducing unnecessary regulatory barriers to new technologies and best practices that are aimed at driving efficiency in plant nutrient production and nutrient use.
- A uniform national framework that states can utilize to harmonize regulatory approval of innovative plant nutrition products.



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