



Action Items from 2021 PNWER Summit

Items approved by the Board include statements and action items below.

1. PNWER Joint Statement on Antimicrobial Use and Resistance

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Members of the Pacific Northwest Economic Region Agriculture Working Group and Cross Border Livestock Health Conference jointly support the prudent use of antimicrobials to protect human health while maintaining the health and welfare of livestock.

Delegates recognize irresponsible use of antimicrobials leads to accelerated emergence of antimicrobial resistance of animal and human pathogens and diseases that professionals are unable to successfully treat. Simultaneously, ceasing or over-restricting the use of antimicrobials may have a detrimental effect on the health and welfare of people and livestock, as it could compromise treatment options.

Delegates affirm the importance of open markets and advocate for science and risk-based decisions on animals and aquaculture antimicrobials use that align with international standards. To ensure a balanced perspective, we urge U.S. and Canadian federal governments show international leadership on these issues.

We also encourage U.S. and Canadian governments to invest in antimicrobial-use surveillance and research, including long-term practical disease prevention through the development and adoption of a comprehensive approach that includes vaccination, nutritional programs, and animal husbandry practices (including early and accurate disease detection, diagnosis, and treatment) which can lessen the overall need for antimicrobials in most populations.

2. PNWER Resolution on Canola as Renewable Fuel Feedstock

WHEREAS: Diesel engines powered by petroleum-based diesel fuel have powered highway, rail, and marine transportation, heavy equipment, and industrial operations for over a century; and

WHEREAS: Concerns about climate change over the last several decades have spurred public opinion towards demand of non-fossil and alternative fuels; and

WHEREAS: The U.S. Government and several States have implemented incentives in the form of reduced taxes or tax credits to incentivize development and use of low carbon intensity fuels; and

WHEREAS: Biodiesel experienced problems gelling at low temperature, making storage and use undesirable in northern climates; and

WHEREAS: Renewable diesel fuel refined from plant and animal-based feedstocks is chemically similar to petroleum-based diesel fuel and offers a problem free renewable fuel that can be used without any additives or blending in today's diesel engines; and

WHEREAS: Renewable diesel can be refined from a variety of plant-based feedstocks, animal fats, used cooking oils; and

WHEREAS: Canola is a popular and economic oil seed crop that is raised throughout the northwestern United States and southwestern Canada; and

WHEREAS: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has not yet developed a pathway for canola-based renewable diesel fuel that enables such fuel eligible for advanced biofuel credit; and

WHEREAS: Canada has recognized the value of canola as a renewable feedstock for diesel fuels; and

WHEREAS: The U.S. Canola Association's letter from March 2020 petitioned the US EPA requesting canola oil diesel facilities that utilize canola oil receive advanced biofuel credit under the U.S. Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS); and

WHEREAS: On June 21, 2021, U.S. Senators Klobuchar, Hoven, Daines, Tester, Smith, Moran, Marshall, Wyden, and Cramer signed a letter to EPA Administrator Regan asking for expedited consideration of the U.S. Canola Association's March 2020 petition.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST ECONOMIC REGION:

That the organization encourages its member jurisdictions to send a letter to the Honorable Michael Regan, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency supporting the request of the U.S. Canola Growers Association and the letter from nine U.S. Senators that EPA allow renewable diesel facilities that utilize canola oil to receive advanced biofuel credit under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS).

FURTHERMORE: PNWER recommends the establishment of a task force of universities in PNWER jurisdictions to study the economics of how renewable fuel standards impact on food productions and diesel production.

3. PNWER Calls for Congress to establish a U.S. – Canada Commission to examine impacts of the Pandemic, and look out 20 years to make specific recommendations

This Pandemic has revealed the extent and the importance of the social, economic, and cultural ties between the U.S. and Canada. Having the border closed for all but essential travel has had huge impacts on communities on both sides of the border, and in fact throughout the continent.

The largest trading relationship in the history of the world demands constant tending, and investment. This is a moment to take stock of where we are in the U.S. Canada relationship. How are we doing in terms of equity, environment, competitiveness across the global landscape, and how could we do better in all these areas?

All too often this very important relationship has been taken for granted, in times, by both nations.

The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) calls upon Congress to establish a U.S. – Canada Commission to examine the relationship from both sides of the border with a 20 year view toward recommendations. We propose that Congress fund this Commission with a three year budget to be managed by the Woodrow Wilson Center, and to include a consortium of academic institutions, civil society, private sector associations, etc. and that this Commission be instructed to report to Congress on recommendations for both governments and civil society to improve the resilience, strength, security, and innovation of our shared economies, communities, and social fabric.

This Action Item should be turned into a letter resolution and sent to all the relevant Congressional committees related to the U.S. Canada border, and signed by all Officers of PNWER within 30 days of the 2021 Summit.