

Legislative/Policy Committee

The Legislative Policy Committee...

- Monitors state and federal legislative activity relevant to Illinois forests and recommends appropriate response strategies to the IFA Board.
- Leads organization of a member alert/response system for use in supporting or opposing legislation relevant to member interests.
- Proactively influences state and federal programs relevant to Illinois forests by representing IFA member interests during events and activities of partner agencies.
- Develops, reviews, and updates IFA position statements on issues of particular concern, with the assistance of the Technical Advisory Committee.

Potential Tasks

- Conduct routine keyword searches for forestry-related legislation pending in the Illinois General Assembly
- Network with other organizations that monitor pending legislation related to forestry
- Contact the offices of legislators, including your own, to voice support or opposition on a particular issue
- Develop and/or share a list of basic talking points on an issue of interest, e.g. ginseng law
- Plan an annual Lobby Day for IFA, or coordinate with partners to participate in theirs
- Coordinate IFA participation in events, such as IL Ag Legislative Breakfast or Conservation Congress
- Develop a contact list of IFA members who are willing to take action on emerging issues
- Maintain a current contact list of legislators for sharing with IFA's action network
- Represent IFA positions on issues, even if your personal viewpoints differ
- Write an article on a policy-related issue for the IFA newsletter
- Draft and/or help edit position statements on pressing issues of concern
- Represent IFA member landowners on the NRCS State Technical Committee
- Recruit or engage IFA members who show an interest in legislation/policy issues

- Other _____

- Other _____

- Other _____

- Other _____

Skills and Interests Needed

- Familiarity with legislative processes
- Comfortable reaching out to legislators and their staff
- Ability to communicate IFA talking points in person or in writing
- Interest in influencing policies affecting Illinois forests and forest landowners
- Other: _____

IFA Mission

The mission of the Illinois Forestry Association is to act on issues that impact rural and community forests and to promote forestry in Illinois

IFA Vision

The vision of the Illinois Forestry Association is to be a highly effective, “go to” community of well-informed property owners who are managing their trees and forests and are influential with their peers and government.

Five Goals

1. Promote forest management and help landowners manage forests
2. Educate members and the general public
3. Policy advocacy for IL Forests
4. Understand/engage members and increase membership
5. Efficient and Effective IFA Governance

GOAL 3: Policy advocacy for IL Forests

Lead IFA Committee: Legislative/Policy

Strategy 3.1: Develop position statements on issues of particular concern and review/update periodically with the assistance of the Technical Advisory Committee.

Action 3.11: Review existing position statements and modify, as needed, to maintain usefulness.

Action 3.12: Prepare new position statements on emerging issues, e.g. state tree nurseries.

Strategy 3.2: Monitor/respond to state and federal legislative activity relevant to Illinois forests.

Action 3.21: Follow and share the legislative updates of partner organizations, including Illinois Farm Bureau and Illinois Arborist Association.

Action 3.22: Make personal contacts with key members of the IL General Assembly and their staff members to register support, opposition, or simply remind them of IFA interests if no particular issue is in play.

Action 3.23: Plan an annual Lobby Day for IFA, or participate in a partner organization’s similar event.

Strategy 3.3: Organize and empower a “Power of Ten” IFA member response system for use in supporting or opposing legislation relevant to member interests.

Action 3.31: Develop a list of IFA members who will commit to responding promptly by telephone, email, or in person when alerted by IFA.

Action 3.32: Recruit additional members in legislative districts that lack coverage, aiming for at least 10 members/contacts per legislative district.

Action 3.33: Provide each member of the network with contact information for their legislators.

Action 3.34: Invite action alert members to participate in IFA Lobby Day, IL Ag Legislative Breakfast, and other organized activities.

Strategy 3.4: Proactively influence state and federal programs relevant to Illinois forests.

Action 3.41: Maintain IFA representation on the NRCS State Technical Committee.

Action 3.42: Participate in formal IDNR opportunities for input, including Conservation Congress and the Trail of Tears State Forest Working Group.

Action 3.43: Participate in Illinois Forestry Development Council meetings and events.

Action 3.44: Diligently monitor, respond to changes, and aggressively encourage appropriate use of Forestry Development Act funds.

Action 3.45: Develop position statements on the state tree nurseries and state forests to encourage their ongoing viability and maintenance.

Action 3.46: Work with key legislators to develop original legislation, as needed and appropriate.