

# 2025 Policy Priorities

## *MCA Policy & Resolutions*

### **Landowner Rights**

The purpose of eminent domain is to acquire land for infrastructure and other critical needs for the betterment of the state. It was intended to be used as a last resort and not an easy avenue for private, for-profit companies to make money at the expense of landowners. The five-person, Governor appointed Public Service Commission is responsible for designating eminent domain authority and handling complaints. The current structure of the commission allows for the void of rural/agricultural representation on the commission. This is especially concerning as the power grid has traditionally been built on the backs of farm and ranch families. MCA will support legislation to ensure eminent domain is not a tool used to deprive citizens of their private property rights. MCA will also support legislation to expand the size Public Service Commission to include representation of landowners. The series of issues in this space could warrant the development of a "Landowner Bill of Rights."

**SB 9 – Senator Mike Bernskoetter**

### **Water Rights**

The issue of water rights has been top-of-mind for producers in the West for a very long time. It is becoming more and more of an issue in Missouri. Protecting water rights for Missouri producers is essential. MCA will support legislation that would make it unlawful for any person to withdraw from any water source for export outside the state of Missouri via a pipeline facility unless he or she holds a water export permit issued by the Department of Natural Resources. Missouri Corn, Missouri Soybeans and Missouri Farm Bureau supported similar legislation during the 2024 legislative session.

**SB 29 – Senator Jason Bean**

**SB 82 – Senator Jamie Burger**

### **Solar Energy**

Solar energy is rapidly expanding in rural Missouri replacing traditional agricultural land with solar panels. Many producers are voluntarily leasing land to utility companies for solar energy development. Solar companies are taxed and assessed by the state rather than undergoing local tax assessment like wind energy. MCA will support legislation requiring local tax assessment rather than state assessment. The county assessor decides what rate to use when taxing major, commercial (not home/farm solar panels) solar developments. The assessor can choose to tax the land as agricultural or commercial. MCA will support legislation requiring all solar developments to be taxed at a commercial rate.

**HB 440 – Representative Kent Haden**

**Policy items are put forward by members and members of the Policy and Legislative Affairs Committee and approved by the general membership at the Annual Missouri Cattle Industry Convention.**

