
Agricultural Promotion and Regulation Task Force

Evaluate Indiana's agriculture structure

- Determine whether making ISDA a regulatory agency could compromise its role as an industry advocate.
- Identify potential changes to ISDA or other agriculture-related state entities.

Improve promotion and regulation

- Examine how Indiana can strengthen and better coordinate agricultural promotion, regulation, and advisory functions.

Assess the future of agriculture

- Review current and emerging challenges and opportunities facing Indiana agriculture.

Review agency roles and coordination

- Identify gaps, overlaps, or inefficiencies among state entities serving agriculture.

Evaluate potential Purdue transfers

- If appropriate, assess the feasibility and impacts of transferring agricultural programs/functions from Purdue University, including employees, property, records, funds, and accounts.

Gather stakeholder input

- Hear testimony from agricultural associations, organizations, businesses, and state agencies involved in agriculture.

July 28 – 1st Meeting

Members (Present)

Rep. Aylesworth (Chairperson), Rep. J.D. Prescott, Sen. Susan Glick, Sen. Jean Leising

Chris Cherry, Kendell Culp, Sue McCloskey, Joseph Miller, Katie Nelson, Jackie Ponder Bowman, Melissa Rekeweg, and Kelley Sheiss

Non-Voting

Adam Battalio, Bernie Engel, Bret Marsh, Don Lamb

Members (Absent)

Sen. Yoder, Rep. Pfaff

Industry Testimony

- **Alan Dunn**, representing row crops
Proposed changes to the director of agriculture's role within the executive branch.
- **Brady Mouzin**, representing specialty crops
Recommended Food Safety move from Dept of Health to ISDA.
- **Elisha Modisett Kemp**, representing agribusiness
Regulatory programs need to be predictable and adequately funded.

Industry Testimony

- **Chris Herrell**, hardwoods industry,
Reviewed the status of Indiana's hardwood industry; Shared support for moving private forest management to ISDA; state forest stays with DNR.
- **Mike Dunn**, Indiana conservation efforts,
Nature Conservancy's role in Indiana conservation and how Purdue is leading in science-based assessment
- **Ted McKinney**, NASDA President and Former ISDA Director
Regulatory structure and potential changes the state could make – focus on having Director of Ag be a cabinet level seat.

Public Testimony

- **Matt Leiberling**, representing the Indiana Hardwood Lumbermen's Association (IHLA) and Farm Bureau, highlighted issues facing the timber and sawmill industries.
- **Jay Buchan**, discussed timber markets and the success of ISDA promoting the lumber industry.
- **Perry Seitzinger**, representing the IHLA Forestry Council, spoke on potential changes to DNR's and ISDA's roles in regulating Indiana forests and timber.
- **Don Villwock**, representing himself, history of ISDA and the LG's role as Secretary of Agriculture.

Public Testimony

- **Tim Schwab**, representing Farm Bureau, advocated for additional market reporters for IN beef/cattle market.
- **Brad Baun**, representing the Conservation Law Center, discussed agricultural conservation easements in Indiana.
- **Mike Hoopengardner**, representing IFB and Indiana Grown, advocated for additional funding for ISDA initiatives.

Next Meetings

September 2
10:00 am – 4:00 pm

October 13
10:00 am – 4:00 pm

<https://iga.in.gov/2026/committees/interim/agricultural-promotion-and-regulation-task-force>