



**Comparison of Political Party 2016 Platform Positions on AF&PA Priority Issues**

Issue	Republican Position	Democrat Position	AF&PA Position
<p><b>Greenhouse Gas Regulations</b></p>	<p>Climate change science is political, not scientific.</p> <p>Do not support the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change or United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.</p> <p>Oppose carbon tax, will do away with the Clean Power Plan, and will work to protect coal mining jobs.</p>	<p>Climate change is an urgent threat. Will convene a global summit in first 100 days to develop a plan to combat it and to surpass Paris goals.</p> <p>Believe the U.S. should run entirely on clean energy by mid-century.</p> <p>Support a price on carbon and the elements of the Obama Administration Climate Action Plan (e.g., auto standards, building codes, etc.).</p> <p>Will reduce methane emissions from all oil and gas production and transportation by at least 40 to 45 percent below 2005 levels by 2025.</p>	<p>AF&amp;PA believes federal and state climate change must balance environmental, social, and economic concerns to ensure that our nation's economy and forest products industry remain globally competitive.</p> <p>AF&amp;PA supports policies that recognize the forest products industry's important and unique role in reducing greenhouse gases, including sustainable forest management practices, carbon sequestration, biomass energy use, electricity generation, and paper recovery for recycling. Policies must acknowledge the carbon neutrality of biomass for energy from mill residuals and forests where growth levels are greater than or equal to harvests.</p>
<p><b>Energy</b></p>	<p>The U.S. has abundant energy supplies and by removing roadblocks we can facilitate the creation of an all-of-the-above energy strategy to provide clean, affordable, secure, and abundant energy and energy security. Support House legislation that modernizes pipelines and the electric grid, protects the grid from disruption, expedites energy exports, and lowers energy</p>	<p>Committed to getting 50 percent of our electricity from clean energy sources within a decade. Promise to cut energy waste and make American manufacturing the cleanest and most efficient in the world.</p> <p>Support tax incentives for clean energy and oppose them for fossil fuel.</p> <p>Support federal permitting streamlining</p>	<p>AF&amp;PA supports policies that reduce the cost of energy by encouraging fuel diversity, increasing access to supplies both on and offshore, investing in breakthrough technologies, and promoting conservation, energy efficiency and demand response.</p> <p>As electricity suppliers transition from</p>

<b>Energy cont.</b>	costs. Support the opening of public lands and the outer continental shelf to exploration and responsible production. Believe the permitting process should be reformed and streamlined.	for renewable energy and associated transmission.	coal to natural gas, AF&PA supports policies to minimize the costs of purchased energy in both markets by optimizing the use of pipeline capacity.  AF&PA has long opposed a federal Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) for utilities or for electricity generation because it likely will increase purchased electricity costs and generally does not qualify the industry's existing biomass power or take into account important regional differences.  Market forces, not government mandates and incentives, should determine the use of wood and wood residuals for renewable energy.
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Republican Position</b>	<b>Democrat Position</b>	<b>AF&amp;PA Position</b>
<b>Regulations</b>	Oppose top-down, command-and-control regulations that stifle economic growth and cost thousands of jobs.  Will make regulations minimally intrusive, confined to their legal mandate, and respectful toward the creation of new and small businesses.  Will review all current regulations for possible reform or repeal and support congressional approval for major regulations, as well as a regulatory budget that caps regulations in any given year. Support removing most EPA authority and giving it to the states. Oppose the	Not mentioned in the Democrat platform.	AF&PA supports improvements to the regulatory process to ensure that federal rulemakings are based on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• balancing costs and benefits for the most cost-effective regulatory option to achieve statutory goals;</li> <li>• sound science, use of best available scientific and technical information, and objective evaluation of costs, risks, and benefits (e.g., probabilistic risk assessment);</li> <li>• addressing cumulative regulatory burdens facing businesses;</li> </ul>

<b>Regulations cont.</b>	Clean Power Plan and Clean Water Rule.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consideration of the economic circumstances of the affected industries;</li> <li>• respect for private property rights and the need for long-term business certainty.</li> </ul>
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Republican Position</b>	<b>Democrat Position</b>	<b>AF&amp;PA Position</b>
<b>Taxes</b>	<p>Consider the establishment of a pro-growth tax code a moral imperative. Tax rates that penalize thrift or discourage investment and economic growth must be lowered.</p> <p>Will eliminate special interest provisions and loopholes and curb corporate welfare, especially where their erosion of the tax base has created pressure for higher rates.</p> <p>Oppose retroactive taxation. Condemn attempts by judges at any level of government to order higher taxes. Propose to level the international playing field by lowering the corporate tax rate to be on a par with, or below, the rates of other industrial nations.</p>	<p>Large corporations must pay their “fair share” of taxes. Will claw back tax breaks for companies that send jobs overseas, eliminate tax breaks for big oil and gas companies, and crack down on inversions and other methods companies use to dodge their tax responsibilities.</p> <p>Will reward businesses that make investments and provide jobs in the United States. Will end deferral so that American corporations pay United States taxes immediately on foreign profits. Will use the revenue raised from fixing the corporate tax code to reinvest in rebuilding America and ensuring economic growth.</p>	<p>AF&amp;PA supports a federal tax system that promotes economic growth, job opportunities and the competitiveness of U.S.-based businesses. We believe the tax code should provide a level playing field for business activity and avoid picking “winners and losers” among economic players. We are specifically focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower Corporate Tax Rates</li> <li>• Business Investment</li> <li>• International Tax Rules</li> <li>• Employees Benefit Provisions</li> <li>• Retroactive Tax Increases and Transition Relief</li> <li>• Energy Tax Provisions</li> <li>• Forest fiber</li> <li>• Alternative Minimum Tax</li> </ul>
<b>Trade</b>	<p>International trade is crucial for all sectors of America’s economy. Will reject trade agreements that do not adequately protect U.S. interests, U.S. sovereignty, or when they are violated with impunity.</p> <p>Will not allow foreign governments to limit American access to their markets while stealing our patents and technol-</p>	<p>New trade agreements must include strong and enforceable labor and environmental standards. Will not enter into any trade agreement that prevents any government from putting in place rules that protect the environment, food safety, or the health of American citizens or others around the world, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Believe we should review agreements</p>	<p>In an increasingly globalized forest products industry, it is critical to achieve unrestricted access to international markets and a level playing field among international competitors. AF&amp;PA supports free but fair trade policies, the elimination or significant reduction of foreign tariffs and non-tariff barriers that distort the international market, increases the</p>

<p><b>Trade cont.</b></p>	<p>ogy. Will not allow China to continue its currency manipulation, exclusion of U.S. products from government purchases, and subsidization of Chinese companies to thwart American imports.</p> <p>Will insist on parity in trade and stand ready to implement countervailing duties if other countries refuse to cooperate. Demand transparency, full disclosure, protection of our national sovereignty, and tough negotiation. Believe significant trade agreements, such as the TPP, should not be rushed or undertaken in a Lame Duck Congress.</p>	<p>negotiated years ago to update them to reflect these principles.</p> <p>Prioritize strengthening enforcement of existing trade rules and tools, including by holding countries accountable on currency manipulation and expanding enforcement resources. Believe that China and other countries are using unfair trade practices to tilt the playing field by dumping cheap products into our markets, subsidizing state-owned enterprises, devaluing currencies, and discriminating against American companies. Believe trade agreements should crack down on the unfair and illegal subsidies other countries grant their businesses at the expense of ours.</p> <p>Will defend the Export-Import Bank.</p>	<p>cost of doing business abroad, and limits the industry's export potential. AF&amp;PA supports the elimination of unfair trade practices, such as subsidies for capacity building and currency manipulation that distort trade flows and affect the health of the U.S. industry.</p> <p>AF&amp;PA supports international and national efforts to prevent illegal logging and its associated trade that protect legitimate trade and do not negatively impact market access for our products. We also believe that trade liberalization has a positive effect on environmental quality by raising the efficiency of resource use and generating economic growth.</p>
<p><b>Issue</b></p>	<p><b>Republican Position</b></p>	<p><b>Democrat Position</b></p>	<p><b>AF&amp;PA Position</b></p>
<p><b>Postal Service</b></p>	<p>Not mentioned in the Republican platform.</p>	<p>Will push for universal service and oppose efforts for privatization.</p> <p>Want to eliminate pre-funding requirements and restore service standards that have been eroded.</p> <p>Want to expand USPS services to include financial services for the unbanked and other innovative areas for growth.</p>	<p>AF&amp;PA supports legislative and regulatory measures that sustain the economic viability of the USPS and enable it to deliver convenient, efficient, and affordable mail service consistent with evolving market realities. AF&amp;PA supports Postal Reform that preserves the freedom to mail and does not restrict direct mail access to customers, provides solutions to USPS market and financial challenges that balance stakeholder interests, and encourages USPS restructuring and cost savings without arbitrary reductions in service.</p>

Issue	Republican Position	Democrat Position	AF&PA Position
<b>Forest Service</b>	<p>Forest Service controls land with enormous natural resources, especially timber, a renewable resource providing jobs for thousands of workers that should be used to the best economic potential for the nation.</p> <p>Concerned about the threat of invasive species, insect mortality, and wildfire on national forests.</p> <p>Would promote active, sustainable management of forests and that states can best manage our forests. The expense to suppress wildfires related to failed federal forest policies continues to increase and when timber is managed properly, the renewable crops will result in fewer wildfires and produce industry jobs.</p>	Not mentioned in the Democrat platform.	<p>AF&amp;PA believes that laws and government policies should encourage sustainable forest management on public lands in order to provide a reliable and affordable fiber supply.</p> <p>Public lands should be actively managed to restore forest health, reducing the danger of wildfires.</p> <p>AF&amp;PA supports adequate federal funding for sustainable forest management programs on public lands, and for research to understand the U.S. forest landscape, including Forest Inventory Analysis.</p>
<b>Endangered Species Act (ESA)</b>	<p>Supports protection of species threatened with extinction when done in a reasonable and transparent manner with stakeholder input and in consideration of the impact on the development of lands and natural resources.</p> <p>ESA should ensure that the listing of endangered species and the designation of critical habitats are based upon sound science and balance the protection of endangered species with the costs of compliance and the rights of property owners.</p> <p>ESA should not include species if they</p>	Oppose efforts to roll back any aspect of the ESA. Strongly prioritize the protection of threatened and endangered species.	<p>AF&amp;PA supports the goal of the ESA to protect endangered and threatened species and recognizes that ESA implementation can affect manufacturing operations and fiber supply.</p> <p>AF&amp;PA opposes unreasonable obligations imposed in the name of the ESA on government agencies and private parties that result in significant delays, costs, and potential civil and criminal penalties.</p> <p>AF&amp;PA seeks to obtain balanced implementation of the ESA that recognizes the needs of the species,</p>

<b>ESA cont.</b>	exist elsewhere in healthy numbers in another state or country.		the limits of science, and the consequences that flow from the imposition of restrictive measures, including on mill permitting.
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