

CIRB Achievements

2015 Year in Review

Founded in 1964 and headquartered on Capitol Hill, the Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau is proud to provide unparalleled advocacy, support, and membership services to the crop insurance and reinsurance community. Today, CIRB members provide a vital component of the farm safety net, writing policies in every state and providing billions of dollars in crop protection. CIRB is governed by a Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Membership includes AIPs, reinsurance companies, and brokerage groups. Review how CIRB has led the way for the crop insurance industry in 2015.



The CIRB Executive Committee at its annual summer meeting in Stevenson, WA. The 2015 officer team includes Chair Sheri Bane (COUNTRY Financial), Vice Chair Ron Rutledge (FMH), and Treasurer Zane Vaughn (ARMTech).

Annual Events



Emerging Leaders: Launched the inaugural Emerging Leaders Program with six participants from CIRB member companies who engage in a year-long program of educational activities.

2015-2016 CIRB ELP class at USDA, from left to right: Eric Swanson (COUNTRY Financial), Nicole Harrod (ADM), Beth Bjerke (AFBIS), Second row: Aaron Rutledge (FMH), Jim Konstanty (Partner Re), and Weston Burcham, (ADM).

Annual Meeting: Hosted more than 100 industry leaders at CIRB's 51st Annual Meeting, which featured expert speakers on topics such as the agriculture economy, political outlook, and the impact of "big data."

Washington, D.C. Fly-Ins: Held expanded spring policy conference with a Capitol Hill reception and a fall D.C. fly-in.

Chairman's Award: Recognized Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL) with the CIRB Chairman's Award.



Rep. Rodney Davis receives award from Immediate Past Chairman Greg Mills.)



Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau, Inc.

Strategic Planning

In 2015, CIRB updated its long term strategic plan and developed new goals around the below four pillars.

THE CAPITAL VOICE

CIRB monitors, advocates and communicates to influence government decisions and preserve the farm safety net.

COLLABORATION

CIRB works cooperatively with other insurance & reinsurance organizations.

D.C. INFORMATION SOURCE

CIRB is the leading legislative resource for the industry, media, and decision makers.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

CIRB provides exemplary membership benefits and continues to expand its membership base.



Communication Outreach

- Developed one pager on crop insurance to share with potential Presidential candidates in advance of the Iowa Agriculture Summit
- Updated issue talking points on legislative threats such as delivery cuts and premium assistance cuts
- Coordinated industry media responses to legislative activity and created communications toolkit for coalition to utilize including coordinated social media messaging.



- Prepared online Action Alerts for CIRB members and allies to utilize to contact Members of Congress

- Created CIRB recruitment materials including a video to share value of membership



Advocacy Efforts

- Restored cuts to crop insurance that were included in budget agreement, leading a monumental outreach effort with insurance, agriculture and banking allies
- Defeated two harmful House Ag Appropriations amendments
- Worked with Senate Agriculture Committee to host “Crop Insurance 101” briefing for staff; House Agriculture Committee also used CIRB’s materials in similar briefing
- Participated in industry events such as Commodity Classic, International Crop Insurance Conference, and American Applied Economics Association annual meeting
- CIRB’s Political Action Committee supported more than a dozen crop insurance champions in the House and Senate
- Continued to provide ongoing communication with legislative staff, including offices that have not traditionally been engaged on crop insurance issues

Take a closer look at CIRB’s actions during the Fall of 2015:

The budget proposal announcement on October 26 included harmful cuts to the private sector delivery system. CIRB had an essential role in coordinating the agriculture community’s response. CIRB’s leadership - along with a broad coalition of farmers and ranchers, lenders, input suppliers and processors quickly mobilized to oppose the cuts. On December 3, a fix for crop insurance was included in the Highway Bill that was signed into law. Read below for specific actions by CIRB during this process:

- ◆ Issued three Action Alerts that were used to make 1,200 individual contacts with Members by email
- ◆ Sent individualized notes to approximately 150 House offices to ask them to oppose the deal
- ◆ Issued blast statement opposing the cuts to all House and Senate agriculture staff
- ◆ Remained in contact with House and Senate Ag Committee staff to coordinate efforts and messaging
- ◆ Sent constant email updates to keep CIRB members updated of developments
- ◆ Provided talking points, background information on the rate of return, and communications plan for the Crop Insurance Coalition to ensure a unified message
- ◆ Coordinated three crop insurance industry media statements and responded to ongoing media requests