

LOBBYING REPORT

Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (Section 5) - **All Filers Are Required To Complete This Page**

1. Registrant Name:

AGRICULTURAL RETAILERS ASSN

2. Address:

1156 15th Street, NW, Suite 302, Washington, DC 20005

3. Principal place of business (if different from line 2):

4. Contact Name: RICHARD GUPTON

Telephone: 2024570825

E-mail (optional): richard@aradc.org

Senate ID #: 454-12

House ID #:

7. Client Name: ☒ Self

TYPE OF REPORT

8. Year 2007 Midyear (January 1 - June 30): ☐ **OR** Year End (July 1 - December 31): ☒

9. Check if this filing amends a previously filed version of this report: ☐

10. Check if this is a Termination Report: ☐ => Termination Date: 11. No Lobbying Activity: ☐

INCOME OR EXPENSES

Complete Either Line 12 **OR** Line 13

12. Lobbying Firms

INCOME relating to lobbying activities for this reporting period was:

Less than \$10,000: ☐

\$10,000 or more: ☐ => Income (nearest \$20,000): _____

Provide a good faith estimate, rounded to the nearest \$20,000, of all lobbying related income from the client (including all payments to the registrant by any other entity for lobbying activities on behalf of the client).

13. Organizations

EXPENSES relating to lobbying activities for this reporting period were:

Less than \$10,000: ☐

\$10,000 or more: ☒ => Expenses (nearest \$20,000): 70,000.00

14. Reporting Method.

Check box to indicate expense accounting method. See instructions for description of options.

☒ **Method A.** Reporting amounts using LDA definitions only

☐ **Method B.** Reporting amounts under section 6033(b)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code

☐ **Method C.** Reporting amounts under section 162(e) of the Internal Revenue Code

LOBBYING ACTIVITY

Select as many codes as necessary to reflect the general issue areas in which the registrant engaged in lobbying on behalf of the client during the reporting period. Using a separate page for each code, provide information as requested. Attach additional page(s) as needed.

15. General issue area code: AGR (one per page)

16. Specific lobbying issues:

Supports inclusion of grant program in House and Senate versions of 2007 farm bill to help Ag retailers partially cover costs of additives for anhydrous ammonia to prevent use by drug dealers in the production of meth. Supports 25 x 25 Ag Energy coalition efforts to promote production and use of renewable fuels. Supports creation of USDA Ag Transportation Task Force to address transportation challenges facing the nation's agricultural industry. Supports increasing the Hours of Service Agricultural Exemption from 100 to 150 air miles. Coalition member that supported emergency ag disaster assistance payments to farmers and ranchers experiencing a crop or livestock loss in 2005, 2006 and 2007. Participated in coalition to reform the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and other farm conservation programs. Opposed EQIP funding to build end user bulk chemical storage. Support reform to Technical Service Provider (TSP) program in 2007 farm bill, including cost-share payments for precision ag equipment.

17. House(s) of Congress and Federal agencies contacted:

Agriculture, Dept of (USDA)
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SENATE
White House Office

18. Name of each individual who acted as a lobbyist in this issue area:

Name: EBERSPACHER, JACK
Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A
Name: GUPTON, RICHARD
Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A
Name: KOLASSA, MEGHAN
Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A
Name: THRIFT, JIM
Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

19. Interest of each foreign entity in the specific issues listed on line 16 above: **None**

Registrant Name: AGRICULTURAL RETAILERS ASSN Client Name: Self

LOBBYING ACTIVITY.

Select as many codes as necessary to reflect the general issue areas in which the registrant engaged in lobbying on behalf of the client during the reporting period. Using a separate page for each code, provide information as requested. Attach additional page(s) as needed.

15. General issue area code: CHM (one per page)

16. Specific lobbying issues:

Opposed efforts in Congress to mandate use of inherently safer technologies (IST), allow states to implement rules that conflict with federal chemical security regulations, allow for third party lawsuits against chemical facilities. Supported DHS effort for stronger protection of confidential information submitted to the agency - CVI. Serve on DHS Chemical Security Coordinating Council providing input on implementation of new Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) interim final rules. Obtained DHS approval of Asmark Security Vulnerability Assessment (SVA) program. Provided comment letters to DHS on CFATS proposal including proposed Appendix A: Chemicals of Interest.

17. House(s) of Congress and Federal agencies contacted:

Agriculture, Dept of (USDA)
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Homeland Security, Dept of (DHS)
SENATE
White House Office

18. Name of each individual who acted as a lobbyist in this issue area:

Name: EBERSPACHER, JACK

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: GUPTON, RICHARD

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: KOLASSA, MEGHAN

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: THRIFT, JIM

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

19. Interest of each foreign entity in the specific issues listed on line 16 above. **None**

LOBBYING ACTIVITY.

Select as many codes as necessary to reflect the general issue areas in which the registrant engaged in lobbying on behalf of the client during the reporting period. Using a separate page for each code, provide information as requested. Attach additional page(s) as needed.

15. General issue area code: ENG (one per page)

16. Specific lobbying issues:

Coalition member of Ag Energy Alliance that supports increased domestic exploration and production of natural gas and oil and opposed efforts to limit said production as it hurts the domestic manufacture of fertilizers and ag chemicals. Supports legislation for more oversight of the natural gas and energy markets by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) - S. 577, S. 2058, H.R. 594, H.R. 3009. Supports U.S. Minerals Management Service proposal to expand access to offshore domestic energy resources.

17. House(s) of Congress and Federal agencies contacted:

Agriculture, Dept of (USDA)
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Interior, Dept of (DOI)
SENATE

18. Name of each individual who acted as a lobbyist in this issue area:

Name: EBERSPACHER, JACK

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: GUPTON, RICHARD

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: KOLASSA, MEGHAN

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: THRIFT, JIM

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

19. Interest of each foreign entity in the specific issues listed on line 16 above. **None**

Registrant Name: AGRICULTURAL RETAILERS ASSN Client Name: Self

LOBBYING ACTIVITY.

Select as many codes as necessary to reflect the general issue areas in which the registrant engaged in lobbying on behalf of the client during the reporting period. Using a separate page for each code, provide information as requested. Attach additional page(s) as needed.

15. General issue area code: ENV (one per page)

16. Specific lobbying issues:

Supports revisions to EPA's Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) rules; Member of EPA's Spray Drift Work Group that issued final report to the PPDC. Supports federal mandate for registrants regarding ag pesticide container recycling, oppose any direct fees charged against agricultural retailers. Supports strengthening of pesticide applicator standards - more uniformity and increased standards for private applicators, more flexibility on spray drift for commercial applicators.

17. House(s) of Congress and Federal agencies contacted:

Agriculture, Dept of (USDA)
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SENATE
SENATE
White House Office

18. Name of each individual who acted as a lobbyist in this issue area:

Name: EBERSPACHER, JACK

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: GUPTON, RICHARD

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: KOLASSA, MEGHAN

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: THRIFT, JIM

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

19. Interest of each foreign entity in the specific issues listed on line 16 above. **None**

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Select as many codes as necessary to reflect the general issue areas in which the registrant engaged in lobbying on behalf of the client during the reporting period. Using a separate page for each code, provide information as requested. Attach additional page(s) as needed.

15. General issue area code: HOM (one per page)

16. Specific lobbying issues:

Opposed efforts in Congress to mandate use of inherently safer technologies (IST), allow states to implement rules that conflict with federal chemical security regulations, allow for third party lawsuits against chemical facilities. Supported DHS effort for stronger protection of confidential information submitted to the agency - CVI. Participated in DHS Food & Ag Coordinating Council. Serve on DHS Chemical Security Coordinating Council providing input on implementation of new Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) interim final rules. Obtained DHS approval of Asmark Security Vulnerability Assessment (SVA) program. Provided comment letters to DHS on CFATS proposal including proposed Appendix A: Chemicals of Interest.

17. House(s) of Congress and Federal agencies contacted:

Agriculture, Dept of (USDA)
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Homeland Security, Dept of (DHS)
SENATE
Transportation, Dept of (DOT)

18. Name of each individual who acted as a lobbyist in this issue area:

Name: EBERSPACHER, JACK

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: GUPTON, RICHARD

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: KOLASSA, MEGHAN

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: THRIFT, JIM

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

19. Interest of each foreign entity in the specific issues listed on line 16 above. **None**

Registrant Name: AGRICULTURAL RETAILERS ASSN Client Name: Self

LOBBYING ACTIVITY.

Select as many codes as necessary to reflect the general issue areas in which the registrant engaged in lobbying on behalf of the client during the reporting period. Using a separate page for each code, provide information as requested. Attach additional page(s) as needed.

15. General issue area code: TAX (one per page)

16. Specific lobbying issues:

Supports passage of the Agricultural Business Security Tax Credit Act of 2007 (S. 551 / H.R. 1814). Supports Agricultural Chemical Security Provision included in Senate-passed 2007 Farm Bill (HR 2419). Support efforts to repeal and / or the federal estate tax. Support additional tax reform such as accelerating the depreciation for agricultural equipment used by agricultural businesses.

17. House(s) of Congress and Federal agencies contacted:

Agriculture, Dept of (USDA)
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Homeland Security, Dept of (DHS)
SENATE
White House Office

18. Name of each individual who acted as a lobbyist in this issue area:

Name: EBERSPACHER, JACK

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: GUPTON, RICHARD

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: KOLASSA, MEGHAN

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: THRIFT, JIM

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

19. Interest of each foreign entity in the specific issues listed on line 16 above. **None**

Registrant Name: AGRICULTURAL RETAILERS ASSN Client Name: Self

LOBBYING ACTIVITY.

Select as many codes as necessary to reflect the general issue areas in which the registrant engaged in lobbying on behalf of the client during the reporting period. Using a separate page for each code, provide information as requested. Attach additional page(s) as needed.

15. General issue area code: TRA (one per page)

16. Specific lobbying issues:

Supports reform to federal CDL hazmat endorsement background check rules. Supports H.R. 1079, the Professional Drivers Background Efficiency Act of 2007. Coalition member to reform railroad practices related to rates, competition, new tank car design and deliveries. Support increasing Hours of Service Agricultural Exemption air mile radius from 100 to 150. Coalition member supporting passage of Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). Coalition member to reform HAZMAT laws.

17. House(s) of Congress and Federal agencies contacted:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Homeland Security, Dept of (DHS)

SENATE

Surface Transportation Board (STB)

Transportation, Dept of (DOT)

18. Name of each individual who acted as a lobbyist in this issue area:

Name: EBERSPACHER, JACK

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: GUPTON, RICHARD

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: KOLASSA, MEGHAN

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: THRIFT, JIM

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

19. Interest of each foreign entity in the specific issues listed on line 16 above. **None**

Registrant Name: AGRICULTURAL RETAILERS ASSN Client Name: Self

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15. General issue area code: TRD (one per page)

16. Specific lobbying issues:

Supports efforts to eliminate anti-dumping duty orders and other trade restrictions on solid urea and ammonium nitrate fertilizers from Russian and Ukraine. Supports H.R. 443 and H.R. 445. Opposes EPA own-use pilot program related to pesticide harmonization with Canada; Supports fair WTO agreement for agriculture.

17. House(s) of Congress and Federal agencies contacted:

Commerce, Dept of (DOC)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SENATE

SENATE

SENATE

U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC)

White House Office

18. Name of each individual who acted as a lobbyist in this issue area:

Name: EBERSPACHER, JACK

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: GUPTON, RICHARD

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: KOLASSA, MEGHAN

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: THRIFT, JIM

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

19. Interest of each foreign entity in the specific issues listed on line 16 above. **None**

Signature: ON FILE Date: Feb 04, 2008

Printed Name and Title: RICHARD GUPTON, VICE PRESIDENT OF LEGISLATIVE POLI -

Information Update Page:

Complete ONLY where registration information has changed.

LOBBYIST UPDATE

23. Name of each previously reported individual who is NO LONGER expected to act as a lobbyist for the client

ISSUE UPDATE

24. General lobbying issues previously reported that NO LONGER pertain

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

25. Add the following organization(s)

26. Name of each previously reported organization that is NO LONGER affiliated with the registrant or client

FOREIGN ENTITIES

27. Add the following foreign entities

28. Name of each previously reported foreign entity the NO LONGER owns, OR controls, OR is affiliated with the registrant, client or affiliated organization

Signature: ON FILE Date: Feb 04, 2008

Printed Name and Title: -