

MICHIGAN
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

P.O. Box 30014
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7514

September 22, 2009

The Honorable Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor
State of Michigan
111 South Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Granholm,

We are writing today to express our opposition to any proposed executive order that would combine the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) with the Departments of Natural Resources and Environmental Quality. This move would cripple an industry that contributes more than \$71 billion annually to our state's struggling economy.

The MDA is the exception when it comes to government bureaucracies. Each day this department works cooperatively and successfully with agricultural producers, food processors and related agri-businesses that employ more than one million Michigan residents. As we discuss this issue with our constituents, they have nothing but praise for the outstanding work the MDA performs day in and day out. This is even more impressive when you consider the fact that the MDA receives less than 0.5 percent of the general fund spending each year for its operations.

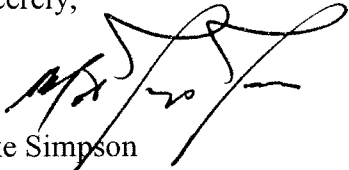
Efforts to reform government must be embraced, but shortsighted and political knee-jerk actions will not move Michigan forward. The broad impact agriculture has in Michigan is endless, and any efforts to dismantle or weaken the ability of MDA to serve the residents of this state will not be supported.

Michigan produces more than 200 commodities on a commercial basis, making the state second only to California in agricultural diversity. Michigan's nursery and perennial production is ranked fifth nationally, while its floriculture industry and Christmas tree production rank 1st and 4th in the nation, respectively. Combined, these industries represent more than \$790 million in wholesale value. State and local inspectors ensure nearly 60,000 food operations are meeting the requirements of the Michigan Food Law, ranging from retail and food service establishments to wholesale operations and manufacturing plants. Why would we jeopardize the success of this industry in the name of government reform?

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Thank you for taking the time to consider our concerns. We certainly hope you will reconsider any proposal that would harm one of our state's growth industries and eliminate or weaken the current structure of MDA. The MDA demonstrates a model other departments should strive toward, not just as an efficient regulatory agency, but as a partner committed to the growth and development of an industry creating jobs for Michigan residents.

Sincerely,



Mike Simpson
Chair, House Agriculture Committee



Sharon Tyler
Republican Vice Chair,
House Agriculture Committee

Cindy Decker 47

Larry DeShazo 61st

Paul C. Kent 58

Hugh D. Pugh # 38

Bill Rogers 66

Chad Moss # 40

Ann M. Pross 79

Bob 63

Paul 67th

W. James 71th

Bob Havelok

Phil Jones 71

Robert B. Jones

Jim Hines # 3

Joel Shiff

Ala. B. [unclear] 89

Vicci Barnett

Jennifer Haase

Michelle Kelly 70th

[unclear] 50

John Walsh 19

Asia Lee 28

Dale Dipp 101

Don [unclear] (21)

[unclear] 100

[unclear]

Dave Helder 86

Bruce Cook

Justin [unclear] 72

J. Mitchell 45

[unclear] 109
~~[unclear]~~

Richard J. Bell 85

Eileen Kwall #44

[unclear] 46

Bruce Colley

Phil Paul 81

~~_____~~ 104

Pete M 36

Ally 59th

Jim Stein 98th

_____ 22

_____ 80

Kim Meltzer 33

Jefferson 90

_____ - 41st

Dan B. Bookin 102nd

_____ 73rd

_____ 105

_____ (96)

_____ 18

Mary Valentine

_____ 97

_____ 77

_____ 76th

_____ (29)

John Espinoza

_____ TB

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Harold J. King

[Signature]

Mark A. ... 110th

Kate Segal

