



michigansmallfarmcouncil.org

Michigan Small Farm Council

Action Alert

May 2014

MDARD has been asked to testify before the Michigan Senate Agriculture Committee about their recent changes to the 2014 Site Selection GAAMPs. These changes make it impossible for most small farmers to meet the requirements of the GAAMPs, which effectively denies them the possibility of Right to Farm protection. Meanwhile, other changes newly allow many of the largest farms to "self-assess" to meet the requirements of the Site Selection GAAMPs.

This is a significant event, since it means that the conversation about small farm rights has moved from **MDARD and the Agriculture Commission**, to the **Legislature and the Senate Agriculture Committee**. This meeting is public, and provides an opportunity for each of us to address the senators to inform them how harmful the changes made to

RECENT EVENTS

January 2014

MDARD announces a Public Comment Period on proposed 2014 GAAMPs, **receives 684 statements in opposition to 2014 Site Selection GAAMPs, 21 in favor.**

March 2014

MDARD schedules a vote on 2014 GAAMPs. The vote on the changes to the Site Selection GAAMPs is delayed until a special meeting in April.

the GAAMPs in April are to small farmers in Michigan, here:

Senate Agriculture Committee Meeting
Thursday, May 15th, 8:30 am
Room 110, Farnum Building
125 W. Allegan Street, Lansing

The Michigan Farm Bureau will be there early to fill the seats. So get there early if you can, or get there late and stand in the back of the room. The important thing is that you get there, to record your opposition to the GAAMPs changes by filling out a card, by submitting written testimony, and/or by requesting to testify at the hearing. All of these efforts will then become part of the official Committee Record.

Unofficially, of course, every senator on the Committee will have a better understanding of why this issue is so important to so many of us, if we show up and tell them.

Thursday, May 15th, 8:30 am in the Farnum Building. Hope to see you there.

Sincerely,
Wendy Lockwood Banka

Questions? We can always be reached here:
info@michigansmallfarmcouncil.org

April 2014

MDARD defines a new term called "Primarily Residential" to deny Right to Farm protection for farms with 13 or more homes within a 1/8 mile radius, or a single home within 250 feet. Those changes were approved by the Ag Commission.

May 2014

MDARD asked to testify about the changes to the 2014 Site Selection GAAMPs at the May 15th meeting of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

The public can present their views by filling out a card to state their opposition to the changes, by submitting a written statement, and/or by testifying during the hearing.

Please support the Farm to Consumer Legal Defense Fund (FTCLDF)

The FTCLDF is a national non-profit organization dedicated to defending the rights and broadening the freedoms of family farms. The FTCLDF has provided free legal assistance to many Michigan farmers seeking Right to Farm protection, but can only continue to do so with

our financial support.



Facebook Google+ Website

