



michigansmallfarmcouncil.org

Michigan Small Farm Council

Action Alert UPDATE

May 2014

On May 15th MDARD will testify before the Michigan Senate Agriculture Committee about recent changes to the 2014 Site Selection GAAMPs, which were constructed to reduce the number of small farmers eligible to earn Right to Farm protection in Michigan. This shift in state agricultural policy has been actively opposed by the Michigan Small Farm Council, and we encourage all members to attend the hearing to voice your concerns.

The venue has changed since our recent Action Alert. Please note the correct address:

Senate Agriculture Committee Meeting
Thursday, May 15th, 8:30 am
Senate Hearing Room
Ground Floor
Boji Tower

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.

April 2014

124 W. Allegan Street, Lansing

YOUR OPTIONS IF YOU CAN ATTEND:

- Sign the card available when you get there, and check the box stating that you oppose the changes.
- Sign the card and request to testify.
- Sign the card and submit written testimony.
- ALL THREE!

OTHER OPTIONS:

- Submit written testimony to Committee Clerk Tony Mosesso:
tmosesso@senate.michigan.gov.
- Sign the **Farm to Consumer Legal Defense Fund Petition** in opposition to the changes. **Every signed petition will generate a fax in the office of each member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, so please be sure to sign, and to tell the Senators why continued Right to Farm protection for small farms is important to you.**
- Sign the **moveon.org petition** started by George Thompson in opposition to the changes.
- ALL THREE!

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

MDARD defines a new term called "Primarily Residential" to effectively 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 is asked to testify about 2014 Site Selection GAAMPs changes 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 change, requesting an opportunity to testify, or by submitting written testimony during the meeting. Written testimony can be submitted at any time to the Committee Clerk at tmosesso@senate.mi.gov.

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.



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