



Michigan Agri-Business Association

March 21, 2023

Members of the Michigan House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Agriculture and Rural Development and Natural Resources

Chair Brixie and Members of the Subcommittee,

I am writing on behalf of the Michigan Agri-Business Association (MABA), a nonprofit trade association representing 300 businesses at every point on the agricultural value chain. We appreciate the Subcommittee for hosting a hearing on National Ag Day to hear from experts on innovation in Michigan agriculture. Fueled by research, technology and our industry's entrepreneurial spirit, the agriculture sector is positioned to grow Michigan's economy while contributing to the fight against climate change, advancing soil health and safeguarding the Great Lakes.

Across Michigan, MABA member companies are working every day with the farmers they serve to help them use the latest technology in support of sustainable production. New solutions can help farmers pinpoint the use of crop inputs in a way that delivers both economic and environmental benefits, and communicate the outcomes achieved. There are many exciting things happening on this front and we look forward to highlighting examples in the months to come. We appreciate the focus on climate-smart agriculture in the Governor's Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 budget proposal.

We also want to voice support for a proposal from Michigan State University (MSU) to advance research focused on agricultural climate solutions, soil health and other critical issues via its Securing Environmentally Sustainable Michigan Agriculture (SESMA) Initiative. At the core of innovation is research – and this initiative will further strengthen the lasting innovation partnership between Michigan's agriculture industry and MSU, positioning MSU to lead on emerging stewardship issues. SESMA is crucial to advance environmental protection, innovation and the continued success of the agricultural industry in Michigan. Importantly, this initiative would address gaps in funding that are not covered under other state and federal funding opportunities.

Thank you for considering our support for this initiative, and again, thank you for hosting today's hearing on these important issues. Please free to contact me any time if our Association can be a resource for you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chuck Lippstreu", is positioned above the typed name.

Chuck Lippstreu
President, Michigan Agri-Business Association