



Michigan Food Processors Association

March 22, 2017

Representative Jon Hoadley
State Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Hoadley:

I am writing regarding the importance of the Michigan State University Fruit and Vegetable Lab, within the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR). I cannot underscore the importance that the MSU Fruit and Vegetable Lab plays in Michigan agriculture and, in particular, the processing sector. The students that are trained in the MSU lab are needed for our industry to thrive and grow. Unfortunately, the MSU lab is in dire need of a facility and equipment upgrade.

I have learned that there will be an opportunity to provide state support for an upgrade of the MSU Fruit and Vegetable Lab. MSU is attempting to create a renovated lab (\$4.2 million) that would not only upgrade the inside of the current lab that provides instruction to more than 730 undergraduate students annually, but would also involve three new mobile processing lines for teaching. These mobile processing units allow for future collaborations with community college partners to expand the reach of the food processing training across the state. The plan would allow for associate degrees from a community college and a certificate from MSU.

Members of the Michigan Food Processors Association (MFPFA) believe this is a great opportunity for the fruit and vegetable processing industry in Michigan. Please let this letter serve as our support for this critical workforce development investment in the food processing industry.

Thank you.

Matt Breslin, Executive Director
Michigan Food Processors Association

Member Companies

Burnette Foods, Elk Rapids, MI
Cherry Growers, Grawn, MI
Coloma Frozen Foods, Coloma, MI
Freestone Pickle Co., Bangor, MI
Gerber Products Co., Fremont, MI
Graceland Fruit, Frankfort, MI
Gray & Company, Hart, MI
Harrison Packing, Kalamazoo, MI
Honee Bear Canning, Lawton, MI
Indian Summer, Ludington, MI
Knouse Foods Cooperative, Paw Paw, MI

Bayview Food Products, Pinconning, MI
Leelanau Fruit Co., Suttons Bay, MI
MI Food Processor Coop., Ludington, MI
Michigan Freeze Pack, Hart, MI
Michigan Sugar Co., Bay City, MI
Oceana Foods, Shelby, MI
Peterson Farms, Shelby, MI
Pinnacle Foods Group, Fennville, MI
Shoreline Fruit, Traverse City, MI
Smeltzer Orchard Co., Frankfort, MI
Swanson Pickle Co., Ravenna, MI
Twin City Foods, Lake Odessa, MI

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