



MICHIGAN
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
P.O. Box 30014
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7514

MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, March 11, 2015 10:30 a.m. Room 519 House Office Building, Lansing

Representative Lauwers, Chair, called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Representatives Lauwers, Cole, Franz, Glardon, Johnson, Outman, Rendon, Courser, B. Roberts, Sheppard, Vaupel, Brunner, Darany, Talabi, Driskell, LaVoy, Garrett.

Representative Cole made a motion to adopt the minutes of the meeting of March 4, 2015. No objections being offered, the minutes were accepted as presented.

The Chair laid the following bill before the Committee.

HB 4017 (Farrington) Food; other; persons donating food to nonprofit organizations or corporations that distribute donated food; provide immunity for.

Representative Farrington spoke to the Committee regarding the provisions of HB 4017.

Sue Latour, Cheryl Becignell and Nancy Tank, representing Macomb Feeding the Need, provided a video presentation regarding the work of their organization and spoke to the Committee in support of HB 4017.

Brad Deacon, Kevin Besey and Matt Blakely, representing the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), spoke to the Committee in support of HB 4017.

Cards indicating support for HB 4017 were submitted by:

Linda Gobler, representing the Michigan Grocers Association
Kait Skuir, representing the Food Bank Council of Michigan
Justin Winslow, representing the Michigan Restaurant Association

Andy Welden, President of the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee, and Gail Frahm of the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee, spoke to the Committee regarding the following topics; the Soybean Farmer Funded Program; Soybean IMPACTS Michigan; versatility of processed soybean; biobased products and product examples; encouraging efforts in Michigan ongoing concerns; profitability; and the freedom to operate.

Jim Casha, representing Kids with Autism Spectrum Disorders, briefly spoke to the Committee regarding GMOs.

There being no further business before the Committee, Chair Lauwers declared the meeting adjourned, the time being 11:36 a.m.

Representative Dan Lauwers, Chair

Catherine Petroskey, Committee Clerk (517) 373-8538