



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

MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, March 23, 2016 10:30 a.m. Room 519 House Office Building, Lansing

Representative Lauwers, Chair, called the Joint Meeting of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and the Standing Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs to order.

Agriculture Committee Members Present: Representatives Lauwers, Cole, Franz, Glardon, Johnson, Outman, Rendon, B. Roberts, Sheppard, Vaupel, Whiteford, Brunner, Darany, Talabi, LaVoy, Garrett.

Absent/Excused: Representative Driskell.

Representative Cole made a motion to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on March 16, 2016. No objections being offered, the minutes were accepted as presented.

Representative Cole made a motion to excuse absent members. No objections being offered, absent members were excused.

Russell Braun, Jeff Sandborn and Gabe Corey, representing the Michigan Corn Growers Association, provided a presentation and reviewed the following topics: Michigan corn use; Ethanol in Michigan, the economic impact on agriculture; fuel standards and Michigan farmers; the Balancing Incentive Program (BIP) grant and BIP impact. Questions and discussion followed.

Adam Ingrao, Executive Director, and Dylan Thomas, President, Farmer Veteran Coalition-Michigan, spoke to the Committee regarding: their personal stories and businesses (Two Pines Farm and Bee Wise Farms); characteristics of what makes a veteran and what makes a farmer; a description of the Farmer Veteran Coalition of Michigan; assisting veterans through education, resources, marketing, and funding; the benefits of being a fellow; "Homegrown by Heroes" and promotion of member products; community; partnering with Michigan organizations; and Michigan's opportunity regarding agriculture

Subsequent to the presentations, Chair Lauwers declared the meeting adjourned, the time being 11:54 a.m.

Representative Dan Lauwers, Chair

Catherine Petroskey, Committee Clerk (517) 373-8538