



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

MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, June 10, 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, B. Roberts, Sheppard, Vaupel, Brunner, Darany, Talabi, Driskell, LaVoy.

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Representatives Courser, Garrett.

Representative Cole made a motion to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on June 3, 2015. No objections being offered, the minutes were accepted as presented.

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

Dennis Crum and Val Vail-Shirey, representing the Michigan Floriculture Growers Council, (MFGC) reviewed the following topics: that floriculture and nursery crops are the 4th largest segment of Michigan agriculture, behind milk, corn and soybeans; in Michigan, there are 599 commercial floriculture growers, 49% generate \$100,000 or more in gross sales, and the estimated wholesale value is \$406 million; horticulture raises an estimated \$4.4 billion nationally in sales and that Michigan ranks as the third highest floriculture grower in the U.S. (behind California and Florida); the variety of plants produced in Michigan leading in national sales; covered areas of floriculture operations; industry issues, including labor, the use of neonicotinoid pesticides; current research; and education.

Meghan Milbrath, representing Michigan State University, spoke to the Committee regarding the Michigan Pollinator Initiative; the national strategy to promote the health of honey bees and other pollinators; MSU research and extension; floriculture and education with regard to consumers and growers; neonicotinoid insecticides used for pest control on ornamentals; activities in floriculture; education and latest research and advanced methods regarding Biocontrol; and the protecting pollinators in ornamental landscapes conference.

There being no additional business before the Committee, Chair Lauwers declared the meeting adjourned, the time being 11:32 a.m.

Representative Dan Lauwers, Chair

Catherine Petroskey, Committee Clerk (517) 373-8538